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Alliances

SUN CLAN THE STERN AND RESTLESS

LEADER HiddenStar - a long-legged siamese tom with forest green eyes. his body is covered in scars. he covers his face with a skull. Mentoring CrescentPaw

DEPUTY FlameThroat - A black tom with spots of ginger around his legs and muzzle. he has dark brown eyes.

MEDICINE CAT George - a light grey tom with white around his light green and blue eyes. white color and a slightly broken tail.

WARRIORS

DeerAntler - a mute light brown tom with white spots and a redish nose.

MonarchSong - a dark brown tom with light blue eyes appearing white at times. wearing a necklace of butterfly wings. mentors Timepaw

ForestWings - HiddenStars littermate. a short siamese she-cat with Forest green eyes.

LoudBoom - a cream tom with green eyes and a yellow collar with a crown on it. mentors Fireflypaw

LongShadows - a black tom with light blue eyes appearing white.

PaleStep - a white tom with clean light grey patches of fur near his

paws

DimondNose - a russian blue tom with icey blue eyes.

AntFrost - a pale tom with a dark brown face and blue eyes. mentors dawnpaw

RamFang - A dark brown, fluffy tom with brown eyes and dark pink paw pads.

APPRENTICES

CrescentPaw - a large jack who has long legs, muzzle and big scratched ears. Their pelt is mostly black but half of their face is white with a few grey stripes. Their eyes are green and amber.

Gibbouspaw - a large jet black she-cat who has green and amber eyes who is sassy with great fighting skills.

TimePaw - an orange tom with a white tail and muzzle. dark brown eyes.

FireflyPaw - a jet-black shecat with orange eyes. (Filler character)

LightPaw - a deaf white shecat with light blue eyes and curled ears. (Filler character)

ELDERS

CorpseTail - a large, deep voiced tom who is furless. He has brown eyes.

BearFur - a kind golden tom with almost black eyes.

MOONCLAN THE QUIET AND WATCHFUL

LEADER Crowstar - a jet-black tom with light blue eyes and long fur. White daffodil on his head, sorta like a hat.

DEPUTY MistyShores - a white she-cat with large brown spots and long, puffy fur. she wears a black hat with a robin feather stuck to it. mentors bumblepaw

MEDICINE CAT FrogCroak - a white tom with light green eyes.

WARRIORS

DuckCall - a grey tom with dark brown eyes that always seems to be excited about something.

RustedClaws - a brown shorthaired tom with red and blue eyes. mentors lilacpaw- a cream tom with lime green eyes.

HedgehogStep - a russian blue tom with blue eyes and dark red pads/nose

APPRENTICES

LilacPaw- a white tom with grey paws and grey muzzle. He has dull cream eyes that almost look violet.

ELDERS

PigeonFlight - a grey shecat with blue eyes and a white face. (Filler character)

LostDawn - a white shecat with dark red eyes and sharp black claws (Filler character)

PeachFern - a pale tom with yellow eyes. (Filler character)

ASTROIDCLAN THE POETIC AND VENGEFUL

LEADER Sootstar - a dark brown handsome tom with long fur and brown eyes.

DEPUTY RustedClaws - a brown shorthaired tom with red and blue eyes.

MEDICINE CAT MouseTail - a small light grey she-cat who despite being a medicine cat is quite strong. She has dull blue eyes that have a tint of sage green.

DawnPaw - a golden tabby tom with sky blue eyes and a red bandana from his formar twolegs. He has a long tail with darker

stripes.

WARRIORS

RoseSeeker - a light brown she-cat with brown eyes and roses scattered across her soft fur

LemonLeaf - a cream genderfluid tabby with yellow eyes and a nub tail.

TimeRush - a calm brown tom with darker stripes and a lighter belly.

SnowyDawn - a white shecat with red eyes and long fur with little red petals scattered in her fur

nightpelt - a black shecat with purple eyes and ears inside of her ears. her ears are ripped and scratched.

APPRENTICES

FoxPaw - An orangish-brown tom with dark brown eyes, sharp ears and a fox like tail. His muzzle, belly and paws are cream. Sootburr and SalmonWhispers (shes dead) kit

BumblePaw - A brown tom with a darker brown back covering with light brown swirls on his thighs, shoulders and one on the end of his long fluffy tail. He has long fur that almost cover his baby blue eyes. Light brown nose marking but slightly darker brown muzzle.

CATS OUTSIDE OF CLANS

billy - a black tom with a white face and white stripes around his legs and lower torso.

Bruteheart - a dark ginger fluffy rouge tom with protruding front teeth and a fluffy cape. he usually wears a fox skull to cover his face.

XD - a shimmering white cat with glowing green eyes and white dove-like wings

Kristen - a black shecat with a star-like pattern on her long pelt. crow wings sprout from her back

Clan descriptions/lore

moonclan : the camp of this clan is on the top of one of the many hills in their territory. There arent many trees in moonclans territory, only a few near the camp itself. They often do not choice violence, they watch others fight while staying silent in clan drama. Leader rock: gibbous rock

Sunclan : a large hidden clan that hides behind a large waterfall. Their territory is covered in rocks and boulders so their paw pads have adapted to walk along rocky places and climb the roughest mountain. Leader rock: Bright rock

Astroidclan : A crater that sits in the hills of the highstones, it is quite close to the gazing cave. Asteroid clan cats are strong, but they take risks because of this. They are poetic, they regret things and mourn for things they lost. Leader stump: Haze log

MAP

[image]

prologue

[image]

The soft breeze of the fall wind blew through the nursery walls, the queens and the kits were at rest except one singular kit. his paws trembled underneath his own weight as the fluffy figure turned away while carrying his brother. the look of terror stayed on the small brown kits face as he watched his father pad away. he let out a wail of sadness as the figure was no more.

The paws of a larger cat crept towards him as he dug his face into the ground. "Hello little one." the old cat spoke quietly to him. he sprung up in surprise of the sudden noise, tears running down his face as fast as a torrent. The large cat looked down, not recognizing this kit. "You aren't from this clan, or sun clan." The kit looked up at him with pure confusion on his face. The black cat looked around, but nobody was there.

He crouched down, picking the kit up by his scruff. He kept wailing for his father. the tall cat padded towards his den, laying the kit down in the moss bed. he stopped crying.

"I suppose i should uh.. tell you my name shouldnt i?" he whispered to the kit. "I am crowstar, leader of moon clan." crowstar smiled. "Hmm, i suppose i should give you some sort of name we could call you until we find your parents." the kit stared at crowstar, waiting for him to say anything else. "BumbleKit? how about that." Bumblekit stumbled forward, laying down next to crowstar.

"There has to be someone looking for you, right?"

Chapter one

[image]

Bumblepaw opened his eyes as the morning light leaked through the den walls. "Bumblepawww!" a voice yelled from outside the den. bumblepaw sprung up and sprinted outside. mistyshores was waiting outside for him. "Sorry, sorry!" bumblepaw said, looking down at the ground. "You know, some of the elders have been finding thorns in their paws, you should go find them more moss." there was silence for a moment before mistyshores wraped a pouch made of twigs and roots. Mistyshores pointed to the medicine den, there was one elder with a thorn in her paw. "Fine-" mistyshores pushed him off and ran off. bumblepaw padded out of camp, alone. there isnt many trees, but there is a lot of rocks that moss grows on.

Bumblepaw scrabbled onto a rock, pulling some of the moss off and putting in his pouch. he jumped off, landing on his paws. he looked around, a few more rocks were over by the end of their territory. he sprinted over to large rocks, none of them really had any moss. he looked at his pouch not even partly filled with moss.he looked farther, more rocks were around the shores of sun clans territory. it wouldnt hurt to take some of it. he padded forwards past the border of moonclans territory. he jumped up onto a rock with a patch of moss on it, and scraped it off into his bag. there was one tree with moss on it.

he padded towards it, gripping onto it with his claws and climbing up to grab the moss.there was a sudden movement in the branches above him. bumblepaw looked up slowly, there was two paws that were visable through the dark leaves in the tree. There was a second where the only thing that bumblepaw could manage to say was "What-" before he was tackled to the ground by a slightly larger figure. the pouch around his neck swung off his neck and onto the ground. the two cats tumbled down and onto the grass, bumblepaw falling first and onto his paw.

Bumblepaw yelped as his paw was crushed under the weight of two apprentices. "Get off of me!" he struggled to no reply. "Please!" the weight was slowly lifted. bumblepaw opened his eyes and looked into the eyes of another cat. "leave me alone! i wont come into this territory again! please!" the small cats voice was filled with terror. the cat infront of him looked back and fourth and stepped backwards. bumblepaw stumbled to his paws and stared at the figure infront of him. he dared not to speak. "Why are you in sunclan territory?" the deep voice of the apprentice surprised bumblepaw. "I- i um.. needed moss." bumblepaws voice was quiet and squeaky compared to the others. "Why dont you get some from YOUR territory?" they leaned forwards. "There werent any in my territory." bumblepaw trembled. "Well, i am Crescentpaw, apprentice of sunclan." Bumblepaw tried to avert his eyes from Crescentpaws. "Im bumblepaw... apprentice of moonclan." bumblepaw muttered.

"Moonclan? i heard you guys are mousebrains and ugly, you look pretty cool." They sat down and looked at bumblepaws eyes which were mostly covered by overgrown fur. "Where did you hear that?" bumblepaw tilted his head. "my mentor.." Crescentpaw looked behind themself, almost looking for someone. "Who is that?" bumblepaw looked behind them too, wondering what they were looking at. "hiddenstar.." suddenly the young apprentices voice was shakey and scared sounding. "Hiddenstar? the leader? why are you mento-" bumblepaw was cut off suddenly. "Look i have to go.. see you soon, bumblepaw." Crescentpaw ran off, leaving bumblepaw confused. he grabbed the pouch and recollected the moss and padded off.

Bumblepaw was confused by Crescentpaw, they were so confident at first but then they looked worried, why was that? they were just confused. there was enough moss where they could replace some of the bedding which was good, if they really needed more they would do it themselves. the sudden pain of his paw came back, making him fall to the ground. he had to keep going. he prayed that mousetail was out here gathering herbs to help him. he limped back to camp with a bag full of moss.

Chapter two

[image]

The warm wind of new-leaf ran through sootburrs soft fur as he sat on the rocks of the river. a soft purr rumbled in his throat as the sun beamed down on him with the mix of the wind. all he could hear was his purrs and the waves of the river infront of him. he began to groom himself, enjoying the peace while it lasted. he sat up, the wind blowing through his long fur. but something was off, there was another voice farther away, it was youthful and squeakey like a kits young voice.

he looked to the twolegs nests, there were two young looking cats sitting near the end of the twolegs territory. one of them was a pale ginger cat and the other resembled a skeleton with thin, almost wet looking fur. The black cat pushed the ginger farther out of their territory. the ginger started to walk towards the lake, he looked incredibly nervous but his pace changed and he was now sprinting. He slowed down as he reached the river. he was staring. "What are you doing kittypet? you could fall in!" Sootburr got up, his gaze placed on the kittypet. "Can i ask you clan cats something?" he yelled across the river, Sootburr tilted his head in reply. "what does it take to join a clan?" The young cat yelled across the river*, like two whole worlds we beside each other, and one was desperately trying to reach the other. but again, it was just a river, somethings are just silly thoughts that have no meaning.* Sootburr finally jumped into the river, swimming to the other.

"Well, you have to be loyal to your clan, you have to be a brave warrior who would never back down from a figh-" Sootburr was cut off by another voice. "Sootburr?" Crowstar called out as he walked from the feilds of moonclans territory. Sootburr whipped around, staring at Crowstar dead in the eyes. crowstar averted his gaze and now stared at the smaller tom in what looked to be pure disbelief. "Crowstar.." sootburr smiled akwardly at his father. "What are you doing here, why are you talking to a kittypet?" Crowstars tone was cold, *stern* almost. a cold glare from the other kittypet behind them

made Sootburr shiver.

"Im- he just came up to me and i was telling him about the clan." sootburr tried to keep his voice steady but it was clear he was shocked by Crowstars sudden presence. "Hm, why? was he askng about it?" crowstar couldnt keep his eyes off the kittypet. *why was he doing this? did he know this kit?* The kittypet nodded quickly, responding to crowstars question. there was a certain shine in his eyes as he stared at Crowstar and Sootburr. his pelt shimmered in the bright daylight just as the sun did. "

What is your name young one?" Crowstar didnt bother swimming to the other side as Sootburr did. "Tommy!" the young cat said. "I suppose you know our names, we have been saying them over and over again." Tommy nodded, "Why do you have two names?" tommy asked, looking back and fourth at the two infront of him. "Because we are clan cats, thats how out names work." Crowstar spoke. "We have a certain naming system." Sootburr added. "What would my name be if i joined the clan?" Tommy asked. "Hm, Maybe Sunnypaw." Sootburr looked down at tommy, as sootburr was much bigger then him. Tommy smiled at the name. "I like that name." Tommy began to step forward into the water.

Sootburr followed after him, crowstar backed up to make room for Tommy. there was a certain look in Crowstars eyes that Sootburr just couldnt understand, *it was a look of sarrow, of sadness.* Tommy pulled himself onto the land with Sootburr doing the same. "What are we doing with him? he probably has a family in that twoleg nest." Tommy shook his head as a reply to Sootburr. "No i dont, they dont live with me." Crowstars sad look turned into confusion. "Not anymore?" crowstar crouched down to Tommys level. "No, my mother had to go." Tommy looked down at his paws.

"Sootburr, a morning patrol is about to come through, just take the kit and go." Crowstar ran back into the hills before Sootburr could question why he was bringing Tommy back to camp. Sootburr picked up Tommy by the scruff, then sprinting towards the hills just as Crowstar had. Tommy closed his eyes as Sootburr darted through the tall grass of moonclans hills. Tommy opened his eyes again, a blur of multiple cats passed through Tommys vison. "Thats the dawn patrol, dont worry we'll be there soon." Sootburrs words were

muffled from carrying Tommy. Sootburr halted to a stop, infront of them was moonclan camp.

Sootburr dropped Tommy down onto the soft grass. "This is moonclan camp, where the cats of moonclan stay." Sootburr padded forwards into the camp with Tommy following close behind. Tommy glanced around, there were more cats then he thought there would be. "Its okay Tommy, they arent going to bite." Sootburr smiled down at Tommy, Tommy smiled back at him. Crowstar was laying on top of the rock, enjoying the sun. When Crowstar noticed the two being back he leaped from the rock, meeting the two at the entrance of camp.

"Hello you two. welcome to camp, Tommy." crowstar purred, licking Sootburrs ear. "I have a question." Tommy murmured. Crowstar and Sootburr looked down at tommy. "How do you remember their names?" Tommy looked up at the two large clan cats. "Well, their scent usually helps me." Sootburr looked at Crowstar, waiting for him to say something. "I have been leader for a long time, so its easy to remember these cats by name and age." Sootburr laughed "You old tom." Sootburr continued laughing before Crowstar nudged him. "Sorry, sorry." Sootburr backed away.

Crowstar padded forwards. he looked back to Tommy, urging him to follow.

Chapter three

[image]

Tommy padded alongside Sootburr, he spotted a brown tom who looked around his age, 6 to 7 moons possibly. the brown tabby looked back at him, they couldnt speak but from the moment they looked at eachother they knew they were friends. He smiled, the tom smiled back. Tommy turned back to Sootburr. "Who was that?" Tommy asked. "The brown cat? That was bumblepaw if im correct." Sootburr said, looking back to see him. "Thats a cool name."

"sootburr, who is this?" A white she purred from behind the two, Sootburr turned to look at her. "Oh, hello Mousetail. This is Tommy." Sootburr nudged Tommy forward "Hello!" Tommy greeted, looking at Mousetails eyes. "Hello, Tommy." Mousetail crouched down to get to Tommys level. "You are a kittypet, arent you." She wasnt hostile, but her voice was firm. Tommy shook his head. "hm, and why are you here?" She asked but it seemed the question was for Sootburr more then Tommy himself. "Well, uhm- " Sootburr began, but Mousetail cut him off. "Nevermind, there isnt a proper answer to that question." She said. "well, it was nice meeting you Tommy." She smiled softly, turning around and padding away. "That was the medicine cat, as her name says she helps sick or injured cats." Sootburr said, still looking at her. "That sounds nice of her!" Tommy meowed, his eyes wide with excitement of this new place. "Mhm, is that something you want to do aswell? She has no apprentices yet." Sootburr suggested, tommy stopped to think for a moment. "Maybe."

"So, when will i become an apprentice and get my name?" Tommy asked. "Im not sure, you may have to prove something to the clan for them to believe in you." Sootburr looked back down at Tommy. "Soon i will ask Crowstar what to do, but thats all i can say for now." Tommy nodded in reply. Tommy looked to the sky, it was as orange as fire. The sun glowed in the reflection of the lake as it set slowly. "Tommy, do you want to join sharing tongues? You could make some friends. If you dont want to talk to anyone, thats fine!

You can just eat." Sootburr smiled. "Sure, does sharing tounges mean talking or something?" Tommy tilted his head. Sootburr nodded.

Sootburr urged Tommy to follow him, there were a few warriors and four apprentices. Tommy suddenly felt nervous despite always being a loud, talkative ball of sunshine. "Dont be nervous, just grab that bird from the fresh kill pile and just do whatever you are comfortable with." Tommy smiled at Sootburrs words and padded towards the bird, snatching it into his jaws. He looked at the apprentices, he was worried they wouldnt like him so he ran past them and sat farther away to them. He placed the robin down in the ground and began to eat it, it tasted amazing compared to the dry food his owners had been giving to him, the wet food was fine but this was better. While Tommy was caught up in his food a cat approached him.

"Hi there!" the same brown cat Tommy had seen earlier spoke, Tommys head shot up. "Oh, uhhhh- hey." Tommy struggled to find his words. "Whats your name? I saw you earlier and i was just wondering if you wanted to be friends." The apprentice smiled. "Uhm. Tommy, my name is Tommy." Tommy said akwardly. The brown apprentice squinted but continued. "My name is bumblepaw!" Bumblepaw smiled. "Thats a nice name, Bumblepaw." Tommy smiled back at him. "do you want to be friends?" Bumblepaw sat down next to him, admiring the robin "Sure, i dont see why not-" Bumblepaw cut him off quickly. "Did you catch that?" Bumblepaw questioned. "Uhm.. Yeah! Yeah i did!" Tommy lied, if Bumblepaw thought he was able to catch this bird he would accept him, even if he was a kittypet.

the two continued to talk and eat until the moon had completely risen. Most cats had finished grooming eachother, eating and talking. Sootburr and Crowstar padded towards the two friends who had just finished eating. "Hello Tommy, have you already made a friend?" Crowstars voice was low and calm. "Mhm." Tommy nodded his head. "Well, thats amazing. But, we must speak to you." Sootburr said, his head was low. Tommy suspected something was wrong. "Follow us." crowstar turned around and sootburr followed. Tommy looked to Bumblepaw then began to follow the two older

cats.

Crowstar and Sootburr enterned a tunnel under a big rock in the middle of the camp. "Sit down you two, i have some words for you." Crowstar sat down and so did tmhe two younger cats. "Tommy, i have talked to the leader of another clan and uhm.." Crowstar looked down. "Hiddensar is going to fight you. Hiddenstar is the leader of Sunclan is going to fight you durring a gathering at the full moon, which is two days from now. He is much older then you and i dont think you can win this fight and if you do not, you will either be trained as a medicine cat apprentice or sent home." Crowstar spoke, looking down at the golden tom. Tommys smile dropped suddenly, realizing what situation he was in. "You wont have to kill him and he will not kill you. All you must do is give him a scar of some sort and you would have won the fight, and if you do you will train to be a warrior in the paws of Sootburr. And you will gain your own name." Crowstar continued. Tommy looked at Sootburr in utter terror. "You must do this, Tommy. This is how you can prove yourself to everyone." Sootburr purred, licking Tommys ear to comfort him.

"Tommy, Sootburr will show you to your den." Crowstar laid down, sending the two off. Sootburr pushed Tommy out of the den and showed him the apprentices den. Tommy looked at the den and then back at Sootburr. "Go on, im sure your friend will want you to sleep next to him." Sootburr gave a half defeated smile. Tommy padded into the den and looked around. "Tommy-" Bumblepaw whispered across the den of sleeping apprentices. "Come lay over here with me." Bumblepaw continued as Tommy carefully walked through the den and laid down next to Bumblepaw.

"Welcome home, theseus."

Chapter four

[image]

Two days had passed since the talk the three had, Tommy hadnt told Bumblepaw about it but they had been talking. It was bumblepaws first gathering and he couldnt wait to tell everybody he could about it. Tommy had been dreading the full moon, he began to resent the moon as the nights passed. "Tommy? Are you in here?" Sootburrs voice would echo through the apprentice den. Tommy perked up, looking at Sootburr through the dens entrance. "Hey." Tommy meowed quietly. "C'mon, i need to show you something." Sootburr picked Tommy up by the scruff before he could say anything and darted out the camp.

Tommys shocked expression made it clear he wanted to be put down. The two reached the hills that strayed in their territory, the grass dancing in the winds as the two looked forwards. sootburr put Tommy down gently. "Im gonna show you a way to beat that dick Hiddenstar up and prove your worthy of clan life!" he proudly said, his long coat blowing with the wind. Tommys face suddenly lit up. "Really? You gonna teach me how to fight!" Tommy jumped with joy. "Yup!" Sootburr smiled. "Hiddenstar has always gone into a fight with no plan. hes a fast, strong and brave leader and is feared by many. If you can be just as fast and as confident im sure you could give him some sort of scar, toms." Tommy listened carefully. "Now, show me what you can do." Sootburr took a few steps back, waiting for tommy to do something. Tommy suddenly focussed harder then he had been before. He crouched down, ready to pounce he pushed himself forward. Before Tommy could reach Sootburr he was knocked to the ground. Sootburr was fast, but Hiddenstar was faster. "Tommy, you need to be faster. Hiddenstar will knock you to starclan if your that slow in battle." Tommy nodded.

He tried again, instead of straight up pouncing he ran behind Sootburr, leaping on his back. Sootburr stumbled and tried to throw tommy off his back, instead Tommy latched to his neck. The two

laughed, Tommy let go and fell to the ground. "thats better! Of course Hiddenstar might be better, but you have good grip toms, maybe you van give him a good face scar." Sootburr smirked, thinking of it. Tommy smiled at Sootburrs words, his gaze began to focus on the sky, it was almost dark. "Can we try one more time?" Sootburr nodded "This time, ill try to go for you too."

Sootburr ran at Tommy, leaping at him. Tommy bolted to the left, dodging Sootburr. He ran forward, making sure he was out of sootburrs sight, this tactic seemed to work. Tommy jumped onto sootburr, making sure he had a grip on him before Sootburr tried to get him off. Sootburr once again, attempted to throw tommy off his back, but tommy was latched on tight. Tommy suddenly let go of Sootburrs back and flew backwards, landing ln his feet. When sootburr turned around, Tommy charged at him and jumped and latched onto his face with his claws barely unseathed. "Okay, Tommy you can stop now!" Sootburr said, Tommy let go and fell to the ground.

"i think your ready, you are not fully trained. If you do lose, im sure we wont let you go home if you dont want to. And if you get hurt, we will be here to help." Sootburrs warm smile brought happiness to Tommy, he almost felt like a big brother. As the moon began to rise, the voices of the moonclan cats began to rise from the camp. Crowstar looked at the two, smiling and mationing for them to follow.

"Alright Tommy, lets go!" Sootburr padded forwards with Tommy following close behind him. A part of tommy hoped this would be an okay gahering, cause if it was this bad everytime it would be his last. He looked out into the small crowd of cats, BumblePaw was following close behind his apprentice with a sling around his arm. Tommy wondered what happened, he padded up to Bumbldpaw to ask.

"bumblepaw?" tommys voice caught Bumblepaw off gaurd, he turned his head. "hey Tommy! Whats up?" Bumblepaw asked. "Why do you have those uh.. Leaves wrapped around your leg?" tommy looked down at Bumblepaws leg. "oh its a sling, i fell from a tree a few days back. See that stick? Its holding my leg in place while walking long distances. MouseTail said i only sprained it though."

He smiled and looked forwards once more. "oh, okay." the clan kept walking. Not so long after another clan came into vision. "Tommy look, thats Sunclan!" Sootburr whispered while nudging him to look at them. Bumblepaws head snapped to look at them with a grin on his face.

It hadnt been to long that they got there, the waves crashed against the shores of the moonlight island. Tommy watched Bumblepaw look around, almost like he was looking for someone. "are you okay Bumblepaw?" Sootburrs tone was soft. Bumblepaw nodded his head. Crowstar looked around and walked towards the rocks, jumping up onto the one with a moon painted onto it. Tommy looked at the rock with a sun painted onto it, his gaze planted onto a large skinny cat with bright green eyes that stared deep into his soul. Sootburr stood infront of Tommy blocking Hiddenstars view of him.

Crowstar looked to the sky that was speckled with bright white stars and a full moon, he prayed that Tommy would somehow overpower Hiddenstar. He looked to Hiddenstar and then to the cats below. Hiddenstar looked at Crowstar and nodded, signifyng the gathering was ready to begin. "let the gathering begin!" Hiddenstars voice boomed throughout the sheltered area of the island. Crowstar looked at Hiddenstar, waiting for him to begin.

"for the past moon, Sunclan has thrived over NewLeafs gift of prey in the mountains and our part of the valley. We have also gained two new apprentices, EclipsePaw and TimePaw!" Hiddenstar shouted. The cats in the crowd shouted the twos names. **"Crescentpaw! Timepaw!"** the cats repeated. Sootburr looked around for bumblepaw, but he was with a different apprentice, a black and white cat who smiled at the call of their own name. "although the many heavy rainfalls, there has been barely any flooding anywheres in the tunnels and caves." hiddenstar finished, looking at Crowstar to say what had been going on with his own clan.

"thats sounds amazing, Hiddenstar. Moonclan has been doing well, although a part of our traveling system has flooded which makes it harder to cross to the gazing-pond lately, but we have found our ways. In the past moon we have gained three more apprentices, Bumblepaw, Lilacpaw and Foxpaw." Crowstar said. **"Bumblepaw!**

Lilacpaw! Foxpaw!" the cats shouted the apprentices names. "In the past week however, we have stumbled upon a young cat named Tommy. This brave young cat was willing to abandon the kittypet lifestyle and begin training as a Moonclan apprentice." the cats below looked confused, but not many were mad at this. Many cats in the crowd came from barns or twoleg nests. "but before Tommy begins training he must prove he wont give up in battle, he will fight Hiddenstar."

Tommy looked up, watching Crowstar flick his tail, signaling for him to come forward. "i have visited the gazing-Pond to speak to our warrior ancestor's, as long as one cat is not killed the moon shall not be covered." he continued. Tommy gripped the soft ground with his claws, digging into the ancient soils. Hiddenstar leaped down from the rock, the leader casted a shadow over tommys pelt, the moons light made his pelt shine as bright as the dawn itself. Sootburrs encouraging words echoed through tommys mind. Crowstars eyes peirced tommys soul with sadness.

Sootburr stepped back, waiting for the fight to begin. "may the fight begin." Crowstar said. Tommy arched his back, attempting to look more frightening. Hiddenstar ran forwards, grabbing tommy by his bandana and throwing him up into the air. Tommy fell to the ground, almost hitting one of the rocks. Before hiddenstar could get to him, Tommy stood up and ran back at him, latching onto his face. Tommy scramble over his face trying to climb onto his back, but was thrown off. Hiddenstar was too fast for Tommy, he managed to run past HiddenStar, dodging his attack. As Hiddenstar turned around tommy hurled himself towards hiddenstar.

Tommy swiped at Hiddenstars face, leaving one long running scratch across is nose. Hiddenstar threw Tommy off of him, knocking him down onto the dirt. Tommy stood back up, his legs were weak but he had to keep fighting. The two cats stared down eachother, their claws unsheathed and their tails lashing behind them. A few drops of blood rolled down Hiddenstars nose, he was unbothered and focused harder, waiting for Tommy to make his move. Tommy launched himself into the air. He landed on Hiddenstar and dug his claws into the short neck fur of the leader. Hiddenstar scratched a part of Tommys ear, leaving blood dripping

down his face.

"thats enough!" George, the sunclan medicine cat yowled. "You two have done enough damage to one another, the moon will set soon and we must get bsck to our camps." he continued. Mousetail ran to Tommy. "are you okay Tommy? We must get you back to cam-" Sootburr cut off Mousetail. "Tommy you id so amazing! You can become a clan apprentice now!" Sootburr couldnt contain his childish smile, he was proud of him. Tommy could tell. "Sootburr contain yourself, i must heal his wounds."

Tommy smiled, looking around at all the cats. He looked down at his bandana, it was torn and dirty, but that was fine.

Chapter five

[image]

Tommy limped beside Mousetail, leaning against her flank. Sootburrs smile made Tommy less aware of the sharp pain in his ear. slowly the three entered a small cave-like area in the camp that had been lit by bright fireflys and decorated with flowers, vines and leaves. "you can just sit down on one of those moss beds, Tommy. Sootburr do you want to stay?" tommy nodded and laid down, absorbing the comfort. Sootburr sat down next to Tommy, the same smile still on his face. Mousetail came back with a cobweb, in her words, "this will help to stop the bleeding, just stay still." as she pressed the cobweb against the wound. "there, now i need to make sure your scratch is covered properly" she said, holding a few chewed dock leaves in her mouth. "not many cats come into camp with scarred ears but ill do everything i can." she smiled, slowly covering the scratch. "ouch" mousetial look down. "oh, sorry i forgot to tell you it stings, By the way, Tommy. Do you want me to take that mark of the twolegs off your neck?" she asked. Tommy shook his head "i mean, atleast it doesnt jingle like those silly collars some kittypets have." sootburr laughed.

"hey Mousetail, what do you think Tommys clan name will be?" Sootburr asked. "hm, maybe Dawnpaw. His pelt shines like the dawn in the sunlight, but since hes gonna be your apprentice its kinda yours and crowstars choice." She stopped. "or his?" she continued. The two looked to Tommy, he had fallen asleep a while ago. "how long will he stay in here, Mousetail?" Sootburr asked. "hm, if he can promise to be careful then the rest of today and tomorrow." mousetail said, sitting down on the warm floor of the medicine den.

Light shined through the entrance as the sun began to rise, the golden sunlight reflected on Tommys pelt. "when do you think we'll do the naming ceremony?" Sootburr asked. "Go ask Crowstar, we could do it today if he says so." Sootburr got up and padded out of

the medicine den, going to Crowstars den. Mousetail nudged Tommy awake. "Are you feeling any better now Tommy." Mousetail laid down infront of him. Tommy nodded, standing up and stretching his legs. "can i sit outside?" he asked, looking at the rising sun. Sootburr was sending out dawn patrols while most cats bathed in the sunlight. Mousetail nodded.

Tommy padded outside, looking around at every cat in the camp. There were many smells that felt quite overwelming to Tommys nose. "Tommy." Crowstar leaped from the rock. Tommy turned to look at Crowstar. "hi Crowstar!" Tommy greeted him kindly. "Its time." sootburr said as he appeared from behind crowstar. "for what?" Tommy asked, obviously confused. "your naming ceremony." crowstar said. "you mean im gonna get my clan name?" He tilted his head, the two toms infront of him nodded. Tommy couldnt help but do a little happy dance.

"cmon now, we are about to start the meeting." sootburr said, the two padding to the rock and leaping to their positions. Tommy followed them quickly, looking up at the rock. "All cats old enough to run the moors and watch the moon rise may gather around the rock for a clan meeting." crowstar bellowed, his old voice raspy with age. Cats began to swarm below the rock, waiting for Crowstar to say what the meeting was called for.

"At the gathering a young cat proved himself worthy of training in Moonclan, the young cat in questions name is Tommy." Crowstar continued. "This morning his naming ceremony will begin. May starclan guide Tommy in his new life." Crowstar went quiet, looking to the sky and then back down at Tommy. "From now on, Tommy shall be known as Dawnpaw." Tommy looked up, a large smile on his face. "**Dawnpaw!**" the cats yowled, over and over again. "Dawnpaw, as long as you abide starclans law you will be welcomed in Moonclan." Crowstar said proudly. "And Dawnpaw, your mentor will be Sootburr. Clan dismissed." crowstar laid down on the warm stone of the rock.

Sootburr jumped from the rock, standing infront of Dawnpaw. The two touched noses, a shock ran down Dawnpaws pelt as it shined in the light. His eyes shot open and he backed up, Sootburrs eyes opened aswell, but less shock that influenced Dawnpaw. "when do

you want to start training, Dawnpaw?" Sootburr asked. "how about in the evening?" Dawnpaw suggested. "alright, go have fun toms." Sootburr padded off as Dawnpaw watched him from under the rock.

Chapter six

[image]

Sootburr looked up to the sky, it was bare and hot. Sootburr stood alone in a warm field, minding his own business. He thought about things he could do with Dawnpaw in training, many things popped into his head, but one stuck out the most. Teaching Dawnpaw the basic herbs would most likely help him if he or someone else got hurt without Mousetail. He stood up, stretching his body. Though sootburr was a warrior, many apprentices had been taught this incase of this happening. He padddd his way hack to camp slowly, admiring the territory:

He arrived at the camps entrance, looking for Dawnpaw. Bumblepaw and Dawnpaw were talking to eachother, sharing a mouse. Sootburr padded towards the two. "dawnpaw, its time for training, i have something special planned for you today." Sootburr smiled, signaling for Dawnpaw to following him as he padded back out of camp. "bye Bumblepaw!" Dawnpaw said, following Sootburr. As the two walked out of camp Dawnpaw asked, "what are we doing, Sootburr?" Sootburr looked down at him. "Im gonna teach you how to use and find herbs, but with a twist in which you will see soon." Sootburr replied.

"okay, so herbs are the thing Mousetail used to heal me?" He asked, sootburr simply nodded. "but arent i training to be a warrior?" Sootburr nodded again. "almost everyone learns the basics, it could save you or someone elses life. Or if you ever decide to be a medicine cat you'll already know some stuff." Sootburr continued. "hm" Dawnpaw mouthed, looking forwards. Sootburr padded dangerously close to Sunclans territory, but he continued forwards. Dawnpaw kept following him, the two weaving through the trees. Eventually the two reached a water fall, behind it there was many holes that seemed to be entrances.

"we are gonna need to be quiet, i need to see if the medicine cat is in there." Sootburr breathed, his movements almost silent.

Dawnpaw crouched down, trying to be as quiet as he possibly could. Sootburr peared through one of the holes, he slowly crept in. Dawnpaw heard quiet rustling before Sootburr lept out with herbs held in a bag made of roots. "cmon, we have to go." sootburr shuffled forwards, still not making a sound. Dawnpaw followed him, but couldnt keep his eyes off the hidden camp. For a moment as he looked back, eyes looked back at him.

Dawnpaw scurried forwards, his breath unsteady. The two raced out of the territory, Sootburrs herbs stuck in his jaws firmly. Sootburr was to busy focusing on getting back in their territory for him to notice Dawnpaws fear. Sun dribbled their pelts as they escape the forest of Sunclans territory. Slowly the two made it to the sunny moors and Moonclans territory. "alright, we successfully got some herbs, in style." Sootburr declared, "now, give these to Mousetail. Tomorrow we'll try again." sootburr continued. Dawnpaw nodded, he had to admit it was fun until he saw the same peircing eyes tha gave him his newly found ear scar.

Dawnpaw padded back to camp, herbs in his jaw. He sprinted into the medicine den, mousetail was helping Bumblepaw take off his brace. "oh, hi Dawnpaw!" She said, her voice was as bubbly as her personality. "what do you need?" she asked. "i brought you some herbs." Dawnpaw replied, walked towards the medicine cabinet. "oh, thank you Dawnpaw i appreciate it!" She purred, focusing on Bumblepaws brace. "did sootburr have you do this in training?" she finally looked up at him. "mhm, he said it would help me heal someone if i couldnt find you." Dawnpaw told her.

"mhm. well you two can go play now, Bumblepaw is all healed up." she smiled, nudging Bumblepaw off his moss bedding. Bumblepaw thanked her and padded up to Dawnpaw. "Tom- Dawnpaw i meant!" Bumblepaw giggled happily, practically bouncing over to him. "Hi Bumblepaw!" Dawnpaw chirped, a smile on his face. Mousetail watched the two sprint out of the medicine den, smiles on their faces.

Sootburr later appeared in the medicine den, it was golden hour. not yet night but it wasnt exactly day. "hey Mousetail." he sat down on the warm stone ground. "hey Sootburr, whats up?" she asked, looking at him. "i wanted to ask you something, but uh.. Its weirdly

out of place right now as nothing strange has happened." mousetail tilted her head, waiting for him to continue. "have you gotten any strange dreams or prophecy's? Or even an omen?" He asked, looking around the den rying to reduce the amount eye contact. "hm, well i have to admit a few nights ago when i was visiting the gazing cave, i got a strange prophecy about a new dawn coming to revive the clans." she said, Sootburr squinted trying to figure out what it meant.

"Admittedly, i didnt tell anyone. Last moon i got an omen about about a golden short-haired cat and a brown cat, before Dawnpaw came to the clan no-one knew what it meant, i had to ask for help so many times, they only knew a few brown long-haired tabbys and one of them was Bumblepaw. I just didnt want to push that job of figuring out prophecys on other cats, i want to do this myself. I fear the clans might fall, as the prophecy said there would be war and bloodshed and how it used the term revive is just pushing me to believe it, sootburr!" Mousetail cried, her voice filled with concern.

"Maybe Dawnpaw and Bumblepaw will save our clan."

Chapter seven

[image]

A few days had past, it was a warm, sunny day. Bumblepaw sat in the tall grass, watching bees wander by him. His ear twitched, someone was creeping up behind him. Before Bumnlepaw could react Dawnpaw came out of the grass and leaped on him. "hey bumblepaw!" Dawnpaw exclaimed. "Hi Dawnpaw!" Bumblepaw greated, "we are doing a herb patrol, do you wanna join us?" another voice said behind him, it was Sootburr. "sure, i just kinda finished training but herb patrols are pretty relaxing right?" Dawnpaw looked back at Sootburr and nodded. "alright, im coming."

Bumblepaw stood up, following the two. Bumblepaw noticed they had past multiple herbs, Dawnpaw and Sootburr began to get quieter, whispering to eachother. Bumblepaw asked quietly, "what are we doing in sunclans territory?" Sootburr looked back at him. "shh, we are just getting herbs." Sootburr muttered. "with style." Dawnpaw added. The three crept through the shadows and before they knew it, they were at Sunclan camp. "ill be right out." Sootburr lept into the medicine den. Bumblepaw looked at Dawnpaw, but he was quiet and focused. Bumblepaw stepped backwards, fearing to be caught. Suddenly there was a loud noise.

Sootburr leaped out of the medicine den. a scratch ran down his flank, a few drops of blood fell onto the ground. One of Sunclans warriors, Flamethroat jumped out after him. Flamethroat held a few herbs in his mouth, the ones Sootburr was about to steal. He put the herbs down and lept down onto Sootburr, almost scratching his neck. Instead he scratched Sootburrs chin, it was only a small cut, nothing that would stay. "what in starclans name are you doing, Sootburr?" Flamethroat demanded. "listen, i have beeb doing something with these herbs that is quite important." sootburr said. Flamethroat tilted his head. "follow us."

The three walked through the forest, and into the mountains, the

lakes tide had risen, the waves crashed against the shores. "here i have been planning a new beginning, where we give these herbs to cats who need them. Now Dawnpaw, Bumblepaw, Flamethroat this is where i do it. Its not just for clan cats, its also for loners and rouges that need them." the three cats looked at the hill it was in, there was some thicket surrounding the area, but not much. "how long have you been doing this?" Flamethroat asked, "few days a most." Sootburr replied.

Flamethroat began to search around the 'camp' against the will of the three. It only took him a few seconds the enter the herb cabinet, where every stolen herb was, exposing Sootburrs plan. "sootburr, i advise you to return the stolen herbs to the camps you got them from, i will give you a scar much worse if you dont." Flamethroat warned, staring down Sootburr. Sootburr grumbled as he watched Flamethroat pad away. "so are we gonna give u-" Bumblepaw was cut off, "no, im gonna get some help from an older apprentice that probably knows what we can do."

The three sprinted back to camp, but by then Dawnpaw and Bumblepaw were panting harder than a hungry pack of dogs. Sootburr disappeared into camp, returning with his own kin, Foxpaw. "hey guys!" Foxpaw greated them, bumping heads with Bumblepaw roughly. "we need your help with a sunclan warrior, he is trying to steal our herbs. You're the best cat at making ideas and strategys, foxpaw." Dawnpaw said. Foxpaw thought for a moment. "ill think." the three cats nodded. "alright, follow us." Sootburr spoke. They walked back to the camp Dawnpaw, Bumblepaw and Sootburr had been previously.

As they got there, Flamethroat was still there, he was about to take one of the herbs back to his camp. Foxpaw looked at him, in his eyes what Dawnpaw said was true. "alright i think ill help you guys." foxpaw said, but Bumblepaw looked completely guilty. Foxpaw and Sootburr stomped their way through the 'camp' that Sootburr made. When Foxpaw got to where Flamethroat had been standing, he looked around. There were a few more herbs left, but Foxpaw didnt know that the camp was made by Sootburr. "you stole these didnt you?" Foxpaw thundered. "you stole these from Moonclan!" Foxpaw continued

Flamethroat looked down at him, obviously confused by this random outburst. "no-" he was cut off by dawnpaw. "yeah!" Dawnpaw giggled to himself as he said this. Flamethroat sprinted towards him, he raised his paw to swipe at him but Dawnpaw dodged him. Flamethroat fell on his face, leaving dirt smudges when he got back up. Flamethroat looked and sootburr, sheathing his claws. "sootburr, im going to have to escort you back to your camp." Flamethroat squinted. "im going to have to agree. We shouldnt be doing this, sootburr." Bumblepaw coward. His loyalty strayed from the two, but he stayed on the side of the warrior code.

Flamethroat took Bumblepaw away, but bumblepaw seemed to stray from him slowly, leaving the three cats unsure of what to do next. They retreated back to the newly crafted camp, sitting in one of the handmade dens. "things cannot get any worse then this, we still have the three of us and thats all we need." Sootburr said, the small breeze of new leaf bristling through his long fur. Foxpaw stared out of the den, two figures stood outside. "Sootburr, there are two cats outside." Foxpaw mouthed. The two other looked out of the den. It was lemonleaf and Lilacpaw.

Dawnpaw stuttered, knowing why lemonleaf looked so angry to see him there aswell. "well, if they are hostile i know of a way for you two to escape without being caught in a battle. Sootburr said. The two apprentices nodded, listening to him carefully. "its behind this den, if you can sneak through the brambles of this den without being heard you can get to it. Ill stall for you, alright?" sootburr added, the two agreed. Sootburr padded outside, not sure if he was about to get himself into a fight or not.

Foxpaw and dawnpaw slowly crept out of the den, behind it there was a tunnel just big enough for the both of them. Dawnpaw padded into the tunnel, foxpaw did not go after him. dawnpaw started to sprint as he heard pawsteps behind him, they didnt care if they were to come out with horrible scratches, they just had to go. Dawnpaw,not being able to slow down hit a dead end muzzle first. He was surrounded. Lemonleaf and Lilacpaw were there, waiting behind him. He looked around for foxpaw, but he wasnt there. Dawnpaw was left to surrender, bruised and bloody from running through the darkness.

Chapter eight

[image]

Sootburr and Foxpaw stood infront of Bumblepaw, who seemed to be pretty mad. "im taking foxpaw back to camp, Monarchsong will take you back too." Bumblepaw warned, pushing Foxpaw out of camp. Sootburr looked towards the entrance to camp, but Monarchsong stood blocking Sootburr from running. "monarchsong?" Sootbur shivered at the older deputys presence. "dont worry, you're safe." Monarchsong smiled, stepping aside. "you're helping us?" Sootburr asked. Monarchsong nodded "i agree with your morals, Sootburr. I stand with you as an ally." Monarchsong purred, still smiling warmly.

"i need your help, i need to get Dawnpaw and Foxpaw back." Sootburr said. "they probably took them back to your camp, if we can get them back before they get there they will not be in trouble and we can maybe get bumblepaw back on your side." Monarchsong suggested. "Bumblepaw doesnt know im on your side, ill ask him if i can finish escorting him and ill bring him back." monarchsong said, padding out of camp, quickly disappearing into the distance. As sootburr began to walk out of camp after he figured out how to save Dawnpaw, he felt the weight of another cat.

Lilacpaw jumped onto his back. "you're going to steal Dawnpaw back! I heard everything!" he flipped onto the ground infront of Sootburr. Lilacpaws claws were unsheathed, he was ready to fight. Sootburr wasnt about to fight an apprentice, even if he was threatening him. Lilacpaw lunged at him, striking him in the face. "you're no deputy if you cannot fight an apprentice!" Lilacpaw yowled, baring his teeth. Sootburr sprinted towards him, Lilacpaw stopped, frightened by his sudden change. But he stopped before he could reach Lilacpaw, as he was already cowering below him. Sootburr stepped back. "im not scared of you! You dont scare me!" he lept up once more.

Monarchsong and Foxpaw stood behind him, suprised that Lilacpaw

was there. "You are finally here! I already told Flamethroat about everything!" Lilacpaw yelled, staring at the two. "but you-" sootburr began, but he was cut off. "He was on patrol, hes probably on his way now" Lilacpaw continued. The sudden rustling behind Monarchsong alerted Foxpaw, he turned around to see flamethroat leaping and grasping onto Monarchsongs throat. The five cats fought eachother, lilacpaw and Flamethroat fought together strongly, the other apprentices had been defeated leaving only monarchsong and a wounded Sootburr.

"give up you two, you're practically outnumbered now. Bumblepaw is coming to escout you, sootburr. Now monarchsong, i will escourt you back to sunclan and Lilacpaw will take Foxpaw." flamethroat said, monarchsong was defeated, knowing he would ruin his reputation to hurt Hiddenstars good friend. He grumbled as he got dragged out of camp by Flamethroat and as Foxpaw was escourted by Lilacpaw. Bumblepaw appeared, looking down at Sootburr from the long grass of the hills the camp laid on. "sootburr? I want to make an agreement on something." Bumblepaw spoke maturely. Sootburr raised his head, nodding at Bumblepaws words.

"if you are to stop stealing herbs and finding your own on this part of the territory, we can stop this and i can give you a compensation for this mess." Bumblepaw spoke. "and i can get someone to heal you, which would be easy because we really just need to heal some scratches that wont last long. You seem to have gotten so hurt so easily because you're malnourished." He said, putting his paw on his ribs, which could easily be seen, even through his thick fur. "ill go catch something and grab some herbs, count that as a sorry." Bunblepaw continued, sprinting away.

Sootburr grinned, he stood up slowly. He had to admit he hadnt eaten in quite a while but he was fine, bumblepaw overlooked his good acting skills. Earning the trust of Bumblepaw could be the best thing to happen as his place slowly began to fall into place. bumblepaw came back with a large field rabbit in his jaws and a root-bag filled with herbs. "here, i hope you forgive me for the conflict between the day." he bowed his head, sootburr smiled towards him.

"i forgive you, Bumblepaw. You are an apprentife i can see being

the next deputy of the clan." Sootburr rasped, his smile began to become more genuine then it had been seconds ago. "really? You actually think i could become deputy?" Bumblepaws face lit up at his words. "im more then sure, Bumblepaw. I talked to mistyshores about your improvment and how you fight, you're amazing!" Sootburr continued. "you talk to mistyshores? I didnt know you even knew her!" Bumblepaw laughed, chewing dockleaves in his mouth and placing it on his scars. "but i didnt know you knew how herbs worked." Sootburr said. "i do, mistyshore said she used to train to be a medicine cat but mousetail started to get dreams about starclan." Bumblepaw purred, finishing up.

"here, have this rabbit. You need to eat." Bumblepaw said, nudging the hare towards him. Sootburr began to eat it. The two laid in the setting sunlight, the day was rough and eventful but the night was a rest from everything. "yknow, after everything i heard about what they did to you, i think i should join you too." Bumblepaw said, as the two continued their conversation the others ran into camp with smiles on their faces. "we did it Sootburr! Were free- wait why is bumblepaw here?" Foxpaw halted, questioning Bumblepaws presence. "mhm, its okay, hes joining our group." Sootburr purred, licking Bumblepaws ear. "well, welcome Bumblepaw" monarchsong bowed his head.

OH MY TWO CHAPTERS IN A DAY?

Chapter nine

[image]

The five cats stood amongst the camp entrance, the breeze swiftly blowing through their pelts. Their figures casted shadows over the hills. The five felt at peace, but at the same time they seeked vengeance for the trouble that had been caused, Sootburr knew a way to hurt those who planned to hurt them. A way that could leave everyone to rot in the best way possible, karma. "Toms, im glad i created this place. Im glad this was the place i did it. We are no longer a group, we are warriors. We are warriors of Asteroidclan!" Sootburr yowled, jumping onto a large tree trunck. The cats below him yelled with joy.

"today is the day we rejoice! We are cats of Asteroidclan! We are free!" Sootburr continued, a smile on his face along with everyone, they cheered. Bumblepaw looked up, his gaze pierced starclan presence. Starclan knew Bumblepaw was bound to be a great cat that could change the history of the clans. Bumblepaw was unsure of this 'clan' as starclan had never approved of a leader. *Im just being too worryful, the clan was just pernounced as a clan at dawn.* "well, shouldnt we have a leader, deputy and medicine cat?" Monarchsong asked, looking up at Sootburr. "yes, me and most cats have come to an agreement that i will lead the clan, since you are the only other warrior, i believe you should be my deputy." Monarchsong nodded. "But medicine cat im not sure of, but i do know of an apprentice who actually enjoys the art of herbs." sootburr trailed off, slowly turning to dawnpaw. "dawnpaw, would you like to be Asteroidclans medicine cat?" Sootburr asked. Dawnpaw thought for a moment, like everyone had gone silent. A voice pulled him out of his thoughts, it called his name.

"yes." Dawnpaw nodded his head, his eyes focused on sootburrs. Sootburr smiled, bowing his head. "what about our mentors?" Bumblepaw asked. "soon enough we can recruit more cats, if your mentors dont join. For now me and monarch song can train you two. If we can ,we'll help Dawnpaw to figure out more herbs. Our

personalitys will build the clans reputation and how we can hurt ourselves, this can effect what herbs we might need." Sootburr said, if we can get Mousetail or George on our side we would have a better person to train Dawnpaw." sootburr continued.

Dawnpaw smiled, the fact they were trying to do something that could help him just made him happy. "but, i need to visit the gazing cave. I need to see if starclan approves of us, all of you must keep your eye on certain dreams or possible omens. And i must speak to Crowstar about what happens after this, and who will replace me back at camp, or even if anyone wants to join us.. To the possible dismay of Crowstar." sootburr said, looking towards the mountains. The camp was on higher altitudes then the other clans, they could see the entire lake aswell as the territorys. "i must get going, i need to speak to starclan about this new clan and where we will go from now on." Sootburr lept from the tree stump, padding out of camp. Bumblepaw looked to dawnpaw, he was staring off into space. "Dawnpaw?" Bumblepaw nudged him. "oh- hey Bumblepaw!" Dawnpaw greeted him, a smile on his face. "you okay?" he asked. *dawnpaw never zones out.* Bumblepaw thought. "yeah, im really just thinking about everything. I just joined two clans in the span of barely moon moon. And it makes me think how much longer i have to train." dawnpaw spoke, his voice shakey with concern.

The two apprentices continued to speak about their training, they talked about how long they think it will take sootburr to get back. Foxpaw joined their conversation, and then monarch joined aswell. Monarchsong talked about his own apprenticeship, and how the leader of Sunclan himself trained him, when he was a warrior of course. Monarchsong spoke about his first meeting with Sootburr, they had met at a full-day gathering many moons ago before the three was born. When he himself was an apprentice and when Hiddenstar was Hiddenface.

The three apprentices listened to Monarchsongs stories, wonder filled the young cats senses as they asked for more. Monarchsong had many interesting stories from his own life, this had gone on for many hours , sootburr still hadnt come back. Suddenly footsteps could be heard from the camps entrance. It was sootburr. The four

sat up, padding towards him. "what did you see? What took you so long?" Dawnpaw asked. "Starclan said quite a bit, i asked them if they accepted our clan, they did.. I think? They said we would change things for the better, but it would come at the highest risk a clan could take. If starclan says this will happen, we should not steer away from it if our destiny is in the hands of the stars." Sootburr spoke. "but, starclan gave me my nine lives, courage, justice, swiftness, faith, love, mindfulness, strength, compassion and fierceness. And my name, Sootstar of asteroidclan." Sootstar continued, he spoke of his experience. "the thing you spoke about earlier, a way to make those who hurt us hurt, maybe thats what the thing the told you about was." foxpaw said. "yeah, maybe. But this plan will continue, even if we need to risk our lives to do so."

THREE CHAPTERS IN A DAY???

Chapter ten

[image]

Three days. Three days would the fight between Sunclan and Asteroidclan, luckily Moonclan was there to help and support Asteroidclan with their warriors and their medicine cat. Those three days the destiny of their clan laid in their paws, the battle raged through night and day, they watched the moon rise and fall and the sun shine over the battle ground. The cats of their clan stayed to their morals, for everyone to be free and exist as themself. Their barriers grew bigger and stronger with the growing days.

Hiddenstar had heard of a growing revolution within the Territory. He decided he would confront the cats of Asteroid clan. He padded into the entrance of the camp, looking around at the surprisingly well decorated and well sustained appearance of the camp. He looked towards the tree stump that was the Greatrock of the camp. "Sootburr?" Hiddenstar asked, suprised the one behind this was actually him. "its Sootstar now, Hiddenstar." Sootstar said, looking down at the leader of Sunclan. "i heard of a.. Revolution brewing in this area, is this true?" Hiddenstar asked, Sootstars unblinking gaze peirced his soul. "i wouldnt say revolution.. Just i place that is controlled by a different person and slightly different rules." sootstar said, leaping down from the tree stump to get on his level.

"hm, im not convinced. Anymore information about your.. 'clan' you have to tell me?" Hiddenstar grinned, he doubted the clan had even been old enough for moonclan to know about them. "actually i do, we are allies with Moonclan now and some cats of the clan have thought about joining, is that enough to satisfy you?" sootstar taunted. "im going to speak to my clan about this, ill give you time to think this over." he stopped. "we knew Monarchsong is here, if hes listening we already have a new deputy." Hiddenstar said, he turned around and left.

Monarchsong padded out of the medicine den, he heard what Hiddenstar said. "he got a new deputy? Who did he say it was, did

he even say?" Monarchsong asked. "he didnt say, but i think i know." Sootstar said, looking at him. "It was most likely Flamethroat, he attacked us and was there when we tried to uh.. Steal herbs. I must say, he was good in battle when we were fighting." sootstar remarked.

"by the way, how has Dawnpaw been doing on his own? Is he having any trouble?" sootstar asked. "Well uh, the morning after you left i went hunting and got a scratch on my flank from running into a thorn bush but uhm, Dawnpaw didnt help." Monarchsong replied. "hm, i wouldnt blame him for much due to how young and unexperienced he is but even Bumblepaw could heal one of my scratches. I can go speak to him." he answered. Sootstar padded off, he thought about the training he gave dawnpaw, he never actually taught him how to work with herbs, just finding them. He could try to train him a little bit better, if Dawnpaw is willing to accept he is still an apprentice.

He padded into the medicine den, Dawnpaw was sitting on the floor, he held a small herb in his paws , it was chervil. Sootstar looked at tommy in comeplete disbelief as he sang to it. Dawnpaw hadnt realized that sootstar was there, he continued singing. Sootstar didnt even know half of the words he sang about. "uh, Dawnpaw?" Dawnpaw paused, slowly turning his head to look at him. "hi." Dawnpaw said, blankly and clearly. "hey. Why were you singing to that chervil?" Sootburr asked. "i was blessing it, it makes it work better." Dawnpaw chimed. "oh. Cool. Anyways i need to speak to you about how you refused someone service." Sootstar said, his voice was stern, but somehow still sounded kind to Dawnpaw. "hm? Oh, monarchsong. He didnt really have anything wrong, he just had a splinter which anyone could pull out." Dawnpaw drawled. "not everyone can do that, Dawnpaw. You're a medicine cat apprentice, act like one." he expressed, looking down at the young golden cat. "I question how devoted you are to the role of Medicine cat, or if you're just here to be a face of the revolution."

Dawnpaw looked up, questioning his previous words. "sorry, it wont happen again Sootstar." Dawnpa mouthed, watching Sootstar nod and leave the den. Sootburr thought to himself, the second phase of his plan went into action. The odd smell of smoke drifted into his

nostrils, but no fire could be seen. He thought about the twolegs that roamed nearby, they were probably making their odd objects. He padded away, deciding to go hunting. Dawnpaw sprinted out of his den minutes later, going to get herbs. But he noticed something.. Out of place. He turned to look to the trees across the small river. *Fire.* He thought, the mesmerizing golden and orange flames filled his vision. He turned away

"MONARCHSONG!!" Dawnpaw yowled across camp, the older cat darted from his den, realizing the wild fire across the creek-like river. Bumblepaw followed soon after, looking at the blazing flames. "That river wont keep the fire away for much longer, go you two. ill gather whats most important right now." Monarchsongs words sounded fuzzy, he watched a young cat walk from the fire. It was the loner, Alyssa. "loner!" Dawnpaw shouted back to him, as he ran out of camp in search for her. In his sudden outburst Alyssa heard and scampered away from him, with the other apprentice following him. From the distance Sootstar could be seen dropping a field hare and bolting towards them. "whats happening Bumblepaw?" Sootstar asked, slightly panicked by the situation. "Alyssa started a fire!" Bumblepaw shouted, letting practically everyone in the territory know. Sootburr darted forwards, leading alyssa into the main part of the territory, *the river.* Alyssa was cornered, no choice remained other then to swim, and loners dont learn how to swim on their own.

Dawnpaw snarled, though small, Alyssa seemed frightened by the three. "Dawnpaw, stand straight." Sootstar gave him *the* look. Dawnpaw stopped, looking forward now. Bumblepaw snorted, giggling at his friend. Dawnpaw playfully mocked him. Sootstar in the moment, was thinking about how he would not let his clan become what he always felt he just.. needed to destroy. While the threes mind were occupied, Alyssa spang over them like a crazed jack-rabbit. Bumblepaw watched Dawnpaw shoot his head back, running after her as she swerved through the tall grass. Eventually, the small golden tom lunging forward. Leaving her back with some nasty scars. She tumbled forwads, trying to pick herself up once more she ran back to where ever she happened to come from.

That was the final straw for Sootstar, bumblepaw could tell. He

stomped forward, grabbing the young tom by he scruff like he was a kit. Bumblepaw akwardly followed by Sootburrs side as Dawnpaw struggled in his jaws. He was awful small for his age, even if Bumblepaw himself was pretty small too. But he swore its just that his legs are short.

Chapter eleven

[image]

The three wandered near the camp, but Bumblepaw saw three twolegs where the fire had just been. They threw water onto the fire with some sort of long thing. Sootburr advised the two to stay down until they left, out of the shadows came monarchsong with herbs all carried in a pouch made of roots. "you're back? What happened." Monarchsong asked, his voice was much lower then it normally was, which was somehow possible. "There was a loner that started it, we think." Bumblepaw whispered back. The four cats watched the three twolegs waltz away like nothing happend.

The four stood up, padding into camp. Bumblepaw and monarchsong listened to Sootstar yell at Dawnpaw about what he had done, Bumblepaw didnt get it. He thought if he had assigned him as a medicine cat with previous warrior training, it would make sense for him to try to fight. It suprised him when Sootstar said he wouldnt be helping the clan, and he would be replaced monetarily. Dawnpaw looked to him, looking for a sort of back up. Bumblepaw lowered his head, guilt filling his eyes for his friend. "go back to moonclan, you can come back when we say."

Bumblepaw watched him leave, monarchsong at Dawnpaws side. "Bumblepaw, would you mind finding that hare i dropped? We need it." Sootstar droned. Bumblepaw nodded, hoping the walk would take it off his mind. He padded out of the camp, looking for where he had dropped the hare. The brown ball of fur laid on the grassy field. He padded up to it, grabbing it into his jaws. The sudden rustling of grass made him turn his head. "Soo-" Bumblepaw was cut off by large warrior claws dragging him into the shadowy forest. He yowled and struggled, clawing the soft ground, but his claws only dragged through the mud.

Suddenly they stopped, but the warrior threw Bumblepaw into a mud pit in a large hole. He jumped around, trying to climb out but failing. Green eyes looked down at him, piercing his soul. He tried

and tried but nothing happened, he yelled at the cat that loomed above him. But the warrior sat down, gaurding the mud pit. He let himself rest, the mud covering most of his long soft pelt. He was in his own thought for a while before an odd looking crow was thrown in the pit. The words "food" came from the cat above, it was hiddenstar.

Bumblepaw laid in the mud for a while, eating and talking to himself. He wauted for hiddenstar to leave, but he thought that someone else would switch stations with him, probably so he could do his leader duti- his thoughts were cut off by Flame throat being thrown in the mud pit but a golden cat, obviously he came from behind without the two noticing because that was dawnpaw, one of the smallest apprentices. Hiddenstar whipped around, along with another cat, palestep. Dawnpaw was shoved into the mud pit by palestep moments later.

Dawnpaw landed harshly into the mud, landing on his back. Flamethroat growled, as dawnpaw attempted to get up flamethroat push him back down. The yelling of Hiddenstar followed by Flamethroat getting dragged back up made Bumblepaw think. He grabbed Dawnpaw by the scruff, the smaller golden cat yelped as Bumblepaw prayed to starclan they could make it. He jumped and latched onto Flamethroat, then jumping back, climbing the dirt walls. He let go of dawnpaw, his prayers were answered. "how did you do that?" asked dawnpaw. "i- i dont know!" Bumblepaw answered.

The two darted throught the shadows, knowing the Sunclan cats were following them still. Enventually the cats crossed the border, but hiddenstar kept running after them, palestep and Flamethroat stopped before the scent markers. Bumblepaw knew the territory was small, so as he recognized the hills that his camp was on he bolted towards it, crashing through the protective wall and landing onto sootstar. The two tumbled to the ground, extra Weight came down when dawnpaw crashed through the walls. Hiddenstar walked through the entrance, but monarchsong stood infront of him, his claws unsheathed. Hiddenstar backed away, Monarchsong was larger and older then him. Even with nine lives Hiddenstar could not beat him, he sprinted away, his glare sharp.

"What happened Bumblepaw?" Sootstar asked. "Sunclan threw me into a mudpit! And when Dawnpaw tried to save me they threw him in too." Bumblepaw said, still in shock of what he had done. "how did you get out?" asked Sootstar, his eyes darting back and fourth from the two cats. "Dawnpaw got us out." Bumblepaw lied, nudging Dawnpaw. Dawnpaw smiled. Sootstar was outraged by this, however. He swore to starclan durring the gathering he would be there and he would rock Hiddenstars world. "good job, dawnpaw." sootstar smiled, licking dawnpaws ear. "i think its time you return to your medicine cat duties."

Dawnpaw pranced forwards, but not without looking back at him mouthing "thank you" Bumblepaw smiled, the only thing he wanted for his new clanmates was to be happy. Even if it meant lying for them, or giving up his own power for them. Thats all Bumblepaw ever wanted, it was peace. Over the day, he watched the three others build strong walls that you could barely see through. The tunnel that led to the camp had been slightly covered by bushes, ones you would have to move aside to get through.

Bumblepaw, foxpaw and dawnpaw play fighted for the rest of the day, Monarchsong and Sootstar spoke about possible new members of the clan. The day was calm, it was warm and it was peacful, thats what Bumblepaw wanted in a clan, even if it were just for a few moments. Dawnpaw and Bumblepaw decorated the walls with black and yellow flowers, aswell as brambles for more safety. The clan practically looked like a garden, decorated nicely but well kept. Sootstar talked to foxpaw about how every cat was to be born equal, no matter their breed or gender, no matter apprentice, kit, medicine cat, queen, leader nor deputy.

Sootstar spoke about how the cats of asteroidclan were a force to reckoned with. How the cats of astroidclan were independent and strong, and if there was no Independence, there would be death to the clans once more. To hiddenstar, this was the point of no return, there was no stopping here. Hiddenstar knew the cats were strong, stronger then sunclan cats were ever trained to be. With apprentices who would become warriors, he had to act fast if he wanted to stop this revolution of the clans.

Chapter twelve

[image]

Hiddenstar, palestep, flamethroat and George decided it was time to take a stand against the cats of astroidclan. The four decided they would declare war upon the cats, even if the fight was unfair, the only think that George feared was that he knew Starclan wasnt on their side, nor was moonclan. Hiddenstar hadnt seemed to realize the grave danger they were putting themselves in. The cats of moonclan were strong, but sootstar and monarchsong were even stronger. With three apprentices who knew how to escape risky situations aswell as cause them wasnt a good thing for them sunclan battle.

George had tried to speak about the sudden fight against astroidclan, but Hiddenstar didnt believe moonclan would help them. He thought starclan wouldnt except sootstar as a real leader, he didnt know George could tell sootstar had nine lives, and still had all of them. Hiddenstar only had three at this point, being leader for many many moons took most of them away. He thought about how four of hislives were taken, it was a funny one. Not so fun to heal, however. George looked upon the cats of Sunclan, knowing they would be forced to fight next sun-high or so.

George was giving Hiddenstar traveling herbs, he wasnt so low he wouldnt warn the cats of astroid clan about war, what kind of cats would do that? Which was in hiddenstars exact words. George agreed, he hadnt hit rock bottom yet. "are you ready to go, Hiddenstar?" George asked, handing him his herbs. Hiddenstar nodded thankfully, eating some that george said would give him more energy. Hiddenstar was about to turn around, but George stopped him. "Hiddenstar?" George whispered. Hiddenstar nodded, stopping. "Be safe." George licked his ear warmly. It followed by a snicker from Hiddenstar. "Goodbye, George. Ill be back soon."

Hiddenstar walked out from the medicine den, His travel partner following soon behind him. "Palestep, how have you been this sun-

high?" Hiddenstar asked, looking down at the pale cream cat. "I have been better, but now i have something to do, it will keep me entertained." said Palestep. "wonderful." the two walked out the entrance, behind the waterfall and into the forest. The two cats continued to talk throughout their walk through the forest. The hills that led them intot the rough stones stood infront of them, Hiddenstar padded up the hills, waiting for Palestep.

The two jumped onto the rough, but warm rocks. The sun-lit days got hotter and hotter durring the new season of Green-leaf. Palestep admired the part of the territory he had rarely ever been in, it was covered in golden sun rays. They walked through the tall grass, it looked like the twolegs crops that they grew, or as his mother had told him. The territorys werent that old, the cats were still settling in their new home, but he was at his old camp for long enough to remember sleeping in the hot, dark evenings. The old sandy ruins of the camp and the thriving cats was all he could remember.

The toms padded through the grassy field, Hiddenstar spoke, "The camp isnt far from here, would you like to tell Sootstar or me?" Palestep thought for a moment. "you may." He said. The two cats stopped infront of the camp, there was a tunnel, it seemed to be the entrance. "Follow me." Hiddenstar said, padding down into the tunnel. When the two reached the bottom Hiddenstar pushed the bushy leaves out of the way, making room for the other tom. An immediate staring came from the five cats who were in camp, three were apprentices and two were well- a deputy and a leader.

Sootstar leaped from the tree stump in the middle of camp, a fitting way to enter a conversation. "Hello, Hiddenstar." Sootstar looked directly into the large toms eyes. "Hello, Sootstar. Im here to speak to you about something important." Hiddenstar continued. "Oh, we woild you mind following me to my den?" Sootstar asked, he flicked his tail signaling for him to follow. Hiddenstar nodded. "Stay here, palestep." the two leaders walkes into a tiny entrance to a well decorated den. Palestep looked around, cautious of his surroundings.

The three apprentices scrambled up to him, the ones he saw earlier. "Are you the sunclan deputy?" an young looking apprentice asked, he was orange with lighter highlights, almost appearing as a fix

cub. "Erm- no. I am palestep, a warrior of Sunclan." Palestep explained. The two other apprentices he recognized, Bumblepaw and Dawnpaw. "Oh. Arent you the smart ones that climbed from the mudpit?" Palestep smirked, looking down at the two. Bumblepaw looked suprised that he mentioned it. "uh- yeah, i guess we were." Bumblepaw said, slight hints of fear shown through his words. "You'll be a tactical warrior. but really, i dont have the words to describe how angry Hiddenstar is."

Dawnpaw laughed at his words. Suddenly, the two leaders amerged from Sootstars den. Sootstar held his gaze low. He leaped onto Haze log, yowling the meeting call. Three cats gathered below, monachsong jumped up onto one of the large protruding roots. Hiddenstar and Palestep watched the cats speak about the declaration of war. "This is not just a war about independence, nor is it just a basic war between two of the clans. This war will be the proof of how the clans cant except change, even if it for the better." Sootstar spoke,

Hiddenstar glared at him after his last words, it was true however. *Its not for the good,* Hiddenstar thought. Palestep looked at him reassuringly. "Now, as Hiddenstar spoke to me about, we will have time to prepare. The war shall begin in two days, we will have time to do whats needed. We will speak more when Hiddenstar and Palestep leave." Sootstar said sternly, looking down at the two that sat below him. Hiddenstar took that as a suggestion to leave, he sat up. Flicking his tail for Palestep to follow him. "May the odds be in your favour." Hiddenstar muttered under his breath and he slipped through the exit.

Chapter thirteen

[image]

A patrol gathered together in the hopes to get Crowstar and Moonclan to aid them in battle. Dawnpaw and Bumblepaw went to find herbs, Sootstar stayed back at camp. He had been hoping that Foxpaw wouldnt be in danger at all traveling durring a time of tension, but he had Monarchsong, and Monarchsong was strong, stronger then most. The two cats reached one of the twoleg nests, the sprinted past it, however a strong gaze grasped Foxpaw and he looked back. A black cat with odd white markings stared at him and Monarchsong. He turned back around and followed Monarchsong.

Monarchsong picked up Foxpaw by the scruff, as he was still small, and jumped across the stepping stones. The tides were higher then normal, but they never reached over the stones surface. He leaped onto the soft grass, he looked forward. He hadnt really ever been inside Moonclans camp, he was hoping Foxpap would guide him and make him seem like less of a threat. The two toms padded into the camps entrance, Foxpaw missed this place. But he never really wanted to leave his fathers side, even if no one knew Sootstar had a kit.

Crowstar was bathing in sunlight, he seemed to be talking to three kits, like an elder telling them a story. Which was most likely what was happening. There were many warriors of all types sharing tongues and eating fresh prey, most likely just caught. Foxpaw darted forwards, knowing the leader would recognize him. Crowstar looked down, shock painting his face. "Foxpaw?" Crowstar at up, looking to the entrence, seeing Monarchsong following Foxpaws steps. "Where were you? Why is Sunclans deputy here?" Crowstar was still taken aback by this sudden appearence. "Astroidclan, and hes not Sunclans deputy anymore. Hes astroidclans deputy." Foxpaw said, looking to Monarchsong.

"Astroidclan.. ah.. The new clan Hiddenstar mentioned." Crowstar said, trying to remember what he had said. "We need Moonclans

help, Hiddenstar declared war and we only have to warriors. A deputy and leader!" Foxpaw looked up at him, no one ever really thought that Foxpaw knew what was going on. "So who is your leader, foxpaw?" Crowstar asked, leaping off of the rock. "Our leaders name is Sootstar, or uhm- Sootburr, your old deputy." Monarchsong said.

"Sootburr My son? He is leader of a clan, was he approved by starclan? He- he got his nine lives?" Crowstar looked at the deputy. "Yes, he earned his nine lives and starclan approved of Astroidclan as a clan itself." Monarchsong said. Crowstar was in deep thought for a moment before looking back up at him. "Well, if starclan has approven of a clan that is in a war that isnt needed, in need and overall, full of apprenitces. We as a clan will help Astroidclan as long as you need us." Crowstar bowed his head to the two. "The war will begin tomorrow, hiddenstar told us yesterday." Monarchsong said as he picked up foxpaw by his scruff like a kit. To be fair, it was late in the evening which is the perfect time to take a nap.

Crowstar called Monarchsong back for a second, just before he left. "Tell Sootstar i said hi." Crowstar smiled warmly. Monarchsong nodded and left through the small exit, ducking under the leaves and brambles that covered it. Long shadows of distant trees covered the field, being the only cool spots. But Monarchsong knew leaf-fall was coming, and along with that will come leaf-bare. Monarchsong leaped across the stepping stones, and back onto the grass again. So far, there werent any scent markers until where sunclan and moon clan met, so he couldnt exactly tell when they where on their territory.

When the two padded into camp Bumblepaw and Dawnpaw greeted them, foxpaw jumped down, greeting the two older apprentices and running off with them. Monarchsong smiled, something was so pure about young cats, as a warrior he vowed to protect kits and apprentices of their clan from any types of danger. Sootstar respected him for that, he said they were a true warrior. "Monarchsong, how did it go?" the dark brown leader infront of him asked. "Crowstar said they would help in battle anyway they could. He also says hi." Monarchsong told him. "Ah, amazing."

The three aprentices play fought, even though Dawnpaw wasnt

exactly trained to fight. He did it well, mostly from the fight with hiddenstar. Even though foxpaw was younger he managed to pin Bumblepaw to the ground, dawnpaw tumbling onto him seconds later. The clan was at peace for moments, moments to be remembered. A loud yowl from outside the camp rung in Sootstars ears and awoke from a nap. He padded outside to see Hiddenstar, palestep, flamethroat and George. They all stood outside of their camp, yowling for their attention.

"Sootstar!" Flamethroat yelled, but hiddenstar wipped his face with his tail. "Sootstar, and everyone else in there. We will *not* stand for this absolute joke of a clan, we have had enough. We have set tinder around your camp, any time we could set fire to your camp without trying. We have set one warning to your camp. We will have no mercy for you! Do you understand?! We will come and burn your dens to ashes!" the apprentices watched as the took place, Dawnpaws vision going red with anger.

"we will kill every single thing in your walls and we will take back the territory that was once sunclans. And without you showing white flowers outside your base to show us you have backed down at dawn, or you are dead!" Hiddenstar yowled, something that sounded like a war cry as the four bellowed away. "crowstar will know it is time, he will lead his warriors here and we will fight until our last breaths! It is indepenence or death, and we will not back down from a fight until we breath no longer! Do you hear me Astroidclan?" the four cats behind him cheered, yelling and hurling starclans law.

Chapter fourteen

[image]

The three aprentices woke from their sleep, It was barely dawn. Sootstar was sitting on the log that stood in the middle of camp, just looking on into the horizon. Dawnpaw watched him foucuse on a spot in the east, and then leap down onto the ground. He began to speak to someone. A glimmer of hope hit Dawnpaw when he saw a black cat and many, many others followed. He jumped up and ran to them as soon as Mousetail padded through the walls of camp. "Mousetail!" the young tom squealed, jumping up and down infront of her.

"Dawnpaw! How you have grown, you look like.. A medicine apprentice." she inspected at him, he smelt of herbs, and there was small junipers berries in his fluff. "Yeah! Im a medicine cat now!" Dawnpaw said, he didnt know how she would react, and why she reacted like that. "oh my, well. Now you have someone to keep you company when everyone is off fighting, and because you are so young, ill teach you a few things." Mousetail smiled, patting him gently with her paw. Dawnpaw giggled and guided her to the medicine den.

Foxpaw padded out but Bumblepaw stayed in the den, but there was an odd feeling. A feeling of being watched, but someone. He turned around, a glowing green eye peirced his soul, a sharp pain hit his cheek. Blood trickled down his face and onto his moss bedding, the cat disappeared before he could even think to look back. He got up and sprinted out, dashing through the camp and into the medicine den. "Dawnpaw.. Mousetail? Uhm- i just got.. Scratched." Bumblepaw spoke. "Oh bumblepaw, we can help! How did it happen." Mousetail asked. "Not sure, thank you."

It was dawn, the sun had risen and the everyone was wide awake at every corner. Sootstar, crowstar, monarchsong and Mistyshores stood ready at the front of camp. Waiting to fight. Bumblepaw amerged and got into an empty spot, unsheathing his claws. A large

group of sunclan cats stomped into position infront of the camp. Hiddenstar looked slightly edgy at the sight of Moonclan, he didnt think of them having an alliance. Sootstar had spoken to the cats of moonclan about the element of suprise, Mistyshores noted that. He had said even if there were more of them, Sunclan cats strike harder.

Sootstar could tell some of the cats began to spread out, trapping them in their own camp. Crowstar whispered something to him, sootstar nodded. Crowstar padded forwards, stopping infront of hiddenstar. "Hiddenstar, i would like to give you one last chance. So, how are you?" Crowstar dipped his head to the younger leader, but Hiddenstar snarled and slashed his claw and Crowstars chest. But it didnt leave a mark, he missed. Crowstar padded back to the others."Alright, i know how you feel. Let the battle begin." Crowstar hissed as him and mistyshores whipped their claws at him. Sootstar ran backwards.

"Dawnpaw, lead the apprentices into battle. I trust you to do this." Sootstar whispered as he dashed back and climbed over the hedges. Dawnpaw nodded and gathered Bumblepaw and Foxpaw. Bumblepaw didnt hesitate to bolt forwards, running and tackling a sunclan apprentice, Timepaw. Timepaw struggled as he was struck to the ground. Bumblepaw scratched his face, but just his nose, nothing that would leave a scar. Bumblepaw was thrown off by another apprentices, it was a bold strike. It was Crescentpaw, the jack he met when he was younger. Crescentpaw hissed a warning, helping timepaw up and sprinting off.

Dawnpaw yowled as he led the smallest cats in sunclan, diamondnose to Totemgaze, the largest cat in moonclan. Diamondnose scratched dawnpaws shoulder before Totemgaze saw him, Dawnpaw fell onto the grass as his leg became unsteady. When diamondnose was about to strike the apprentice Foxpaw latched onto his neck and bit him viciously. "Wow you dont have morals Foxpaw!" Dawnpaw shouted as he sprinted away, Foxpaw followed behind him. Crowstar and Hiddenstar were brawling with eachother, the older leader struck him on his face, leaving a large, gaping scar on his face. Blood ran down his face as he yowled, but over the yelling, the fighting and the fear, no one came to his

rescue.

Mistyshores and Sootstar were fighting Longshadows, the largest tom in Sunclan. The speed of Mistyshores and the strength of Sootstar made Longshadows fall to the ground, howling in pain as Sootstar ripped a gash in the large black toms back. Sootstar noticed thatwerent fighting as well as he knew them to, *suprise wouldnt be needed.* Before Sootstar came back to reality, hiddenstar and Flamethroat pushed him and Moonclans deputy down. Hiddenstars blood dripped onto His own face. Hiddenstar ripped a long, bloody scar across his chest. "AGH" Sootstars head leaned back in pain.

Flamethroats yowl took Hiddenstar by surpise, he looked away long enough for Sootstar to drag his hind legs across hiddenstars belly, this would be Sootstars final attack against him before Hiddenstar rolled off him and fell to the ground, he had lost a life. Sootstar limped away, quick enough to get away before he woke back up. Monarchsong wasnt doing that good, he was back up by Flamethroat. Flamethroat hurled insulting words towards the ex-deputy of sunclan. Flamethroat hit them hard, leaving them on the ground.

Astroidclans apprentices were being backed up into a den, the warriors den. Sootstar and Monarchsong were pushed into the den with them, leaves and thorns covered their pelts from being pushed through the walls. "Its alright you two, we know what we can do." Monarchsong whispered. As Sunclan cats backed them up further, sootstar and monarchsong collapsed. Bumblepaw remembered this, when he was first being trained by mistyshores. Snowydawn, explosivewind and deerantler looked slightly confused. "Well im not about to fight some.. Well, basically kits! We should go back, just take the two with us." Snowydawn suggested, she wasnt the type to do anything bad to a young cat, she still thought of herself as a queen.

the two other cats listened, they didnt really want to either. Deerantler and explosivewind were about to grab the deputys scruff before sootstar sprang up and tackled Deerantler, monarchsong nippsed at explosivewind as he got close to his face, he leaped from the ground and threw the tom out of the den. Snowydawn being

suprised, ran off. Foxpaw and Bumblepaw grinned and sprinted out, leaving the fight up to them. Foxpaw snuck up behind flamethroat and palestep, knocking them off the small ledge they perched on. "sunclan cats never land on their feet." Mistyshores said, appearing behind him. "I can tell." Foxpaw mewed as he looked down at the cats struggling to get back up.

When sootstar finished off his fight with explosivewind most of the sunclan cats ran to a lagre pine tree, Sunclan cats could climb very well. *They ran because their leader lost a life.* Sootstar thought as he watched Sootstar limp with the clans medicine cat by his side. Sootstar snorted, hut he realizedhow much blood he himself was losing, he sprinted to the medicine den, dawnpaw was treating one of Rustedclaws wounds. "Sootstar, oh great starclan!" Mousetail jumped at the sight of his scars. "Here, sit down and ill treat them."

Those were the last words Sootstar heard before passing out, losing one of his lives due to blood loss. "There, sootstar can you hear me?" Mousetail asked, her tone was soft. Softer then normal. "Yes, i can hear you just fine. Did i lose a life?" Sootstar sat up, worry covered his face. "Yes, but you are treated now. Your wounds could have been worse, i think starclan had to do with it being treated so fast." Mousetail said but she stopped as she saw Sootstar get back and run out. "Leaders am i right?" Rustedclaws laughed

Sootstar lead Multiple of his most trusted Moonclan and Astroidclan warriors with him to the paine tree sunclan was at. But, they didnt climb said tree, instead they made themselves more obvious to further fighting. As soon as warriors began fighting once more, george, hiddenstar, palestep and Flamethroat ran off further into the twolegs area, crossing the stepping stone with difficultly, they had been driven from their own land. Sunclan retreated with them, but they were slower, more cats severely injured. When Moonclan and Astroidclan gathered back, Monarchsong beckoned them back to the tunnel that was made for Dawnpaw to escape from a while ago.

It was an odd thing for them to be brought back to these tunnels right after a war had been won, but Monarchsong was always an ominous tom. The four others followed him deep into ths tunnel. Now, it was like a cave, it was more fleshed out. He sat down at the

end of the tunnel, like he was covering something of importance. Little did the cats of astroidclan know, not many un-injured sunclan cats actually left. He covered a small field mouse. "Dawnpaw, mind taking a bite? You worked hard." Monarchsong grinned.

Dawnpaw dragged the mouse towards him and took a bite, it had an abnormal crunch. The tunnel fell silent for a moment, but just for a moment. Hiddenstar, flamethroat and palestep barged in. Hiddenstar went after Sootstar and the other two after the apprentices. Monarchsong watched silently, the moving paws of the cats shook the earth. "Down with the revolution, for it was never ment to be." Monarchsongs words rang in the leaders ears. All the things that they had worked on were gone. The four Sunclan cats left, leaving Sootstar and his apprentices behind in the dust.

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"What in starclans name?"

Chapter fifthteen

[image]

The four cats padded out into the clearing, The moonclan cats still sat there, they hadnt seen the five sunclan cats enter or leave, but they had notices the faces of the Astroidclan cats. "What happened Sootstar?" Mousetail asked, face full of concern for her kit-hood friend. "Monarchsong betrayed us. She left, they left with Hiddenstar and his goons." Mousetail looked taken aback from his story. "Your deputy left you?" Crowstar asked, looming over the two. His voice was soft, but you could tell he was an elderly leader. Sootstar nodded, but he was comforted by his fathers soothing grooming. He licked his sons ear.

"I will stay." A she-cat said, it was Mousetail. Crowstar looked at her, but somewhat understood her actions. Crowstar knew his Medicine cat was loyal, but she would do anything for her friends. Crowstar dipped his head for her. "I admire you Mousetail, who would you like to replace you though?" she thought for a moment. "Frogcroak, he knows the most about herbs." she said. "I enjoyes my time with Moonclan. May starclan guide Moonclan paths." there was silence between the cats. "I will too." A few others said, but rustedclaws stepped forwards first.

Sootstar smiled, tears swelling in his eyes. "Thank you, father. May Astroidclan always be in thy favour." He lowerd his head, eyes closing. "You will always have me, Moonclan will always remember you as a noble leader, one to respect. Thank *you*." the two pressed their noses together. Rustedclaw, Lemonleaf and Timerush stepped forwards. "You really need more warriors." Lemonleaf said, smiling. "Goodbye, Sootstar. May Astroidclan thrive." Crowstar smiled, turning away and padding away with his clan. The eight cats watched the Moonclan cats leave. But something still felt off, something was still going on.

Hiddenstar sat outside of camp, still watching the clan. "What are you doing here?" Rustedclaws hissed. "If you do not lay those white

flowers outside you clan walls, this war will become your worst nightmare." Hiddenstar warned, the gash Sootstar left in his chest durring the fight left a scar, it looked like a smile on his chest. "What will you do, we have proved to be stronger then your cats." Mousetail said sternly. "I will burn the clan to ashes." Hiddenstar snarled. "The tinder around your camp is still here, it spreads like wild fire." Hiddenstar continued.

"I dont believe you. You havent done it yet, and you usually do things before we get to think." said sootstar. Hiddenstar nodded. "I know, ill do it now infact." sootstar watched him, he really didnt believe him. "Sootstar, you need to stop him, this is real-" she was cut off by sparks, and then a large burst of flames. Rustedclaws gasped, he didnt think he do it either. The flames spread around camp, making hedges falling over and blocking the entrance tunnel. "Timerush, lemonleaf, Rustedclaws! Get the apprentices out, ill take Dawnpaw and Mousetail." Sootstar shouted.

He leaped onto one of the more sturdy dens, but the flames bursted higher, smoke filling the air. "Mousetail take dawnpaw out this way, theres less fire here. When i find a way out-" he coughed. "When i find a way out we'll find Hiddenstar and take him down again." he continued. Mousetail nodded and grabbed Dawnpaw by the scruff, taking Dawnpaw by suprised. Dawnpaw was thrown out of the blazing camp and onto the ground. Mousetail leaped out after him and fell to the floor, landing on her paws. Rustedclaws, timerush and lemonleaf made it their way with two apprentices following behind them. "Sootstar is just behind us, hes just a bit slowed down because of the smoke." Lemonleaf said

Sootstar came tumbling forwards outside the burnt walls, he suprisingly fell on his paws. "Did hiddenstar really think this through, i mean- we got out quick enough." Dawnpaw said, his tone a bit snarky. "Thats all he will do. He did it to ruin our work on the camp, and the herbs, And the prey." Mousetail sighed, Rustedclaws could tell she was angry. "There isnt much fire, it will go out soon. For now we wait, maybe go for a hunt and get new herbs. Even if the medicine den is made of stone, the fire might have gotten to it. We also should to a border check." Lemonleaf said.

The other cats nodded, spreading out onto the territory. Dawnpaw

and bumblepaw looked at eachother in the eyes, the only think Bumblepaw saw was fear. All he could smell was smoke and fear scent. "Are we really best friends?" Dawnpaw asked, Bumblepaw just stared back at him. "Yeah, i guess we are." Bumblepaw walked off, disappearing into the long grass.

Chapter sixteen

[image]

"Dawnpaw." Sootstar called to him, he sounded more relaxed at dawn they he had been many days before. Dawnpaw raced out of the den after saying his goodbyes to Mousetail, now his mentor. It had been a few days since the fires, they returned to camp with herbs stocked high once more. The dens may have been completely burnt from bottem to top, but it was still warm. The smell of smoke and ash lingered in the air still. "Ready to go meet Hiddenstar?" he asked, even if the situation wasnt one to smile in, Sootstar grinned.

Dawnpaw skipped towards Sootstar and as the two left, the sounds of cats talking soothed Sootstars senses. Everyone was safe, no one was injured and now, there were more warriors. He had appointed a new deputy, Rustedclaws. Rustedclaws was a loyal, brave tom. Astroidclan was happy finally, everyone finally was. Sootstar feared meeting the leader of sunclan once more, the last time they looked into eachothers eyes was in battle, when he took a life from him. But dawnpaw reminded him that it was okay, even if he didnt say it himself. "Yeah, im ready." Dawnpaw replied, even if it felt like moons before he did.

The two padded out of camp, a part of him knew Dawnpaw would break mid-conversation, but he didnt know how to keep him from bursting out at others like that. Sootstar was afraid that Dawnpaw would anger Hiddenstar and do something stupid, something that could harm the clan. Sootstar pushed his own fears aside and pulled his little friend closer, it was hard for him to not call him his brother at this point, even if they may have been complete opposites and different ages, him as an experianced leader and him as a small apprentice.

"He'll be near the gazing cave, i Believe Mousetail has taken you there before?" Soostar spoke, looking to the tall stones that surrounded the territories, they were tall, he had never gone there before. The only times he had been there was when he was with

Crowstar getting his own nine lives, and then his own. But when he went with Crowstar, it was many many moons ago, far too many to remember. "Its an unclaimed place, so the safest." he added. "ok!" Dawnpaw replied, in a simple way. "You may sit down, who knows how long we will have to wait for hiddenstar."

Suddenly, a siamese tom approached the two. "Greetings.. Sootstar, Dawnpaw. I see you brought yout medicine cat with you." Hiddenstars voice was like toxin, it lingered in the leaders ears, burning like an adders venom. "Yes, i want to make this the least threatening meeting. Incase you came alone, like you are now." Sootstar stated, his voice low. "Yes.. So, you have come to talk about surrendering, im suprised you have agreed though." Hiddenstar continued, his words made Dawnpaw see red, even if he hadnt said anything bad.

"Listen here you feather-chasing, fox-hearted, mouse-brained, pain in the tail, ruffled fur, Scaredy-moused Leader! We will not surrender to your clan, no matter what happens!" Dawnpaw yowled, paws scrambling around. "Dawnpaw! Shut your bee-filled mouth!" Sootstar yelled, squinting his eyes at him. "Im so sorry, Hiddenstar. Hes not usually like this." Sootstar explained, hoping he wouldnt be angry. "Hm. Let him go on, lets see what he does." Hiddenstar whispered. "I Challenge you to uh..- challenge! I want to fight you again!" Dawnpaw fumed angerly. Hiddenstars expression was blank for a moment, thinking. "Okay, what a about a one vs one, a dual of sorts." Hiddenstar suggested. "Yes!" Dawnpaw nodded his head aggressively.

"I- what?" Sootstar couldnt believe what he was hearing. this battle didnt have a reason, unlike the one at the gathering. "You heard the kid, i hope he still knows how to fight." Hiddenstar spoke, grinning. "Listen, if you kill our medicine apprentice. We will reign the dark forest upon you, not even starclan will forget." Sootstar warned, he still wasnt sure. He was worried, really worried for the sake of the apprentice, he had gotten in too many fights for his own good. "That sounds reasonable." Hiddenstar whispered, turning away from them. "One day, one day you have to train him." hiddenstar said. "So lets make some rules, we light up tail-to-tail and take ten paces. Who every manages to strike the cat down first, wins. If Dawnpaw

wins, you have independence, if i win.. Astroidclan goes down." Hiddenstar spoke calmly, his voice still seemed rather stern however. "We fight at the stones near the bay, count your blessings."

The tom disappeared into the grass, his steps couldnt be heard. Sootstar was shaken by his situation, much more then Dawnpaw. Dawnpaw was incredibly ready, or he thought he was. Sootstar knew it wouldnt be long until both of them regreted his decision.

Sootstar and Dawnpaw padded back to camp, it wasnt a far walk. *A few tail-lengths in all honesty.* Sootstar wasnt sure if he should tell anyone, if he did he wpuld be scolded for letting this stupid thing happen, risking their clan being seperated once more. The two padded into the entrance, a few cats werent there. But Rustedclaws most likely set out an evening patrol, either hunting, border or just a herb patrol. Sootstar walked up the his deputy. "Rustedclaws." he greeted. "Hey, Sootstar. Whats up?" Rustedclaws jumped off one of the roots of the log. "Not good." sootstar groaned. "What happened?"

Chapter seventeen

[image]

At last, the sun fell low in the sky. The evening sun shone bright in the bright orange sky. On the large, slippery rocks that stood on the edge of the bay, the small tidal waves crashed against the stones. Sunclan and astroidclan cats stood on the stones, one small golden tom and a large, broad shouldered siamese leader. Sootstar sat in the middle of them, he would count down for them to begin the fight. Hiddenstars, his deputy and three warriors watched him. Dawnpaw unsheathed his claws, they were sharp and clean.

The two turned around, tail-to-tail as they had promised. Soostar breathed a long sigh,his breath unsteady with worry for the scrappy apprentice. "It is time to begin." Soostar said, he sounded afraid, even Hiddenstar could smell the scent of fear in the crisp air. Soostar began to count down from ten, the twos steps paced togethers perfectly with his words. "one, two, three four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten paces strike!" Soostar backed away from the small battleground quickly. The world stood still for mearly a moment, Sootstar held his breath almost as he had just falled into the deepest river.

Hiddenstar spun around swiftly, darting towards the smaller tom. Hiddenstar leaped up into he air, aiming for Dawnpaw. Dawnpaw ducked under his just as he landed, he stumbled his own paws but got back up. He was too late to notice Hiddenstar bolting towards him, his world spun as he was thrown and pinned to the ground. The sunclan cats cheered and shouted as Hiddenstar got back off of the apprentice. dawnpaw struggled to stand once more, his legs shaking under his own weight. Dawnpaw had lost, Astroidclan had lost. Everything they worked for was lost over the simple battle. But Dawnpaw would not give up that easily, Dawnpaw knew what he could do.

"Hiddenstar?" Dawnpaw said under his breath, but just loud enough for Hiddenstar to hear him. "hm?" He walked back towards him.

"Can we speak in private?" the apprentice asked, he was sure he wanted to do what he was about to do, he looked to Sootstar. His face, all scrunched up and defeated. Hiddenstar nodded and padded further away from the group of cats. "What would you like to speek to me about?" the leader asked. "I will give up our war allies, moonclan. For you to give us our Independence." Dawnpaw spoke, he puffed out his chest to look more serious.

"Woah- uhm, thats an.. Interesting deal, young apprentice." Hiddenstar was suprised by the deal he wanted to make, a big one. "Yes, for sootstar and my friends." Dawnpaw looked down at his paws, they shifted around. "Ah, so i will let your clan exist in peace. Sunclan will not enter your territory without permission, we will give you respect." Hiddenstar spoke wisely, this was the only time dawnpaw heard him this calm, even when they agreed to this, he still sounded threatening. "Thank you Hiddenstar." Dawnpaw bowed his head slightly. Hiddenstar bowed his head back, turning away and leaving.

Dawnpaw, despite only ever thinking of himself he gave up the very thing that he just found a moon ago, and the thing that saved them in war. Now there was peace, it was a *good* ending for Astroidclan. He padded back over to the Leader of Astroidclan, he watched him mourn in his own thoughts for a few moments. "Sootstar!" Dawnpaw skipped towards him, Sootstar looked up. "We have our independence! I made an agreement with Hiddenstar, we are going to be okay!" Dawnpaw chirped.

"What? You- you did it? We have independence?" Sootstars eyes shot open. "Yes!" Dawnpaw belted. Soostar yelled for his cats, they rejoiced, yowling of joy. "You did it!" Rustedclaws darted to him, practically trampling the apprentice. Sootstar grabbed Rustedclaws by his scruff and pulled him off. "Come now, its time of celebration!" Sootstar leaped over him and flicked his tail, signiling for them to follow him back to camp. The three cats ventured back out into the fields, leaping over the small creek that ran through the hills. They passed the holy land, talking and laughing together.

The three cats padded into camp, everyone was there. Mousetail was doing checkups on timerush, lemonleaf and the apprentices. Lemonleaf was stretching his muscles. Mousetail turned and look at

them. "Dawnpaw!" Mousetail padded over to them. "How did it go? Are you hurt at all?" Mousetail asked. "My back hurts a bit, but it went just fine! We didnt win but we made and agreement with Hiddenstar and now, we are finally considered a real clan!" dawnpaw grinned, ear to ear. Mousetail looked up at sootstar, eyes wide with shock. "You did it? We are free now?" mousetail began to smile joyfully, Sootstars smile widened.

Chapter eighteen

[image]

"As we gaze upon the swathes of red-wood trees, the great hills to our south, and the walls that have protected us now for moons. I, leader of astroidclan now state.. Suck it Hiddenstar!" Sootstar yowled, his clan rejoicing beneath him. The apprentices cheered, the warriors yowled. Mousetail watched the rowdy cats in her clan, she knew she couldnt keep Dawnpaw from celebrating like a kit cathing its first mouse. Hiddenstar laughed to himself as his group of clan cats watched in disgust of how they acted. "Why are you laughing?" flamethroat hissed. "You'll understand when you're leader." Hiddenstar smacked him atop the head with his tail.

After a quarter moon, another she-cat joined. Roseseeker, a warrior of Moonclan. Aswell as two from Sunclan, they were more loners then warriors however. Nightpelt and Snowydawn had joined, Snowydawn said she couldnt leave her mates side, even for a moment. Bumblepaw noticed something about them, they looked a whole lot like Crescentpaw. Since they were in the same clan, they could be their parents. Bumblepaw enjoys talking to them, they are old but young enough to have not retired so they have tones of stories about battles and starclan.

Foxpaw likes talking to Roseseeker, she showed him how to use flowers to smell good, she says *"it makes your scent more unique."* foxpaw did notice that she smelt a bit different, but better then sunclan cats. Roseseeker also loved talking to Mousetail, she talked about herbs and how that can also make her smell better. Mousetails happy to have more she-cats to speak to, Snowydawn and Nightpelt spoke about when they were queens taking care of a kit they didnt even know they *could* have. Sootstar also likes having more warriors, now that they didnt have Moonclan helping in war.

"Snowydawn?" Bumblepaw walked into the warriors den, her eyes were closed but she was awake. She lifted her head, he neck was

thin. She wasnt scrawny but she wasnt really fluffy he fur looked like something out of an oil painting, short but fluffed out slightly. "Can you tell me a story about when you were an apprentice?" bumblepaw tilted his head, smiling kindly. "Mhm, why dont we go outside and have a few rabbits or mice?" The she-cat said, prancing out of the den. Bumblepaw noticed the sunclan cats walked in a very fancy way. He followed her out of the den, sitting out in the clearing.

She came back with foxpaw aswell, she held and extra mouse his her jaws. She sat down, the two apprentices following her action. "When i was a young she, i was a wild spirit. I joined many patrols and battles, since your clan hadnt existed yet so it was only with moonclaw. " Snowydawn spoke, Bumblepaw and foxpaw nodded. "One day, when i was patroling the borders of our territory, i saw a loner. Her name was Night, now known as nightpelt. That patrol had to chase her off but i came back looking for her." she said

Bumblepaw looked down at foxpaw and then back up. "What happened next?" Foxpaw asked. "Me and night became really good friends and one day i asked her to join sunclan, but our old leader, Meteorstar, Declined and said she didnt belong there. But when a patrol full of apprentices and their mentors and me, came across a badger and it tried to kill us. But luckily, Night came to our rescue and with the help of me we defeated the badger. And thats how she became Nightpelt, warrior of sunclan." the two apprentices looked up in awe.

"When we had our first ever kit, they was going to be named badgerkit, the thing that brough us together. But we never ended up naming them that." she laughed to herself. "What did you name them?" Bumblepaw remembered thinking them and Crescentpaw looked similar, but there was little chance they could actually be related. "Crescentkit." Snowydawn interrupted his thoughts. "i believe i could have met him before, when i was first an apprentice." Bumblepaw muttered. "How? Where did you manage to find them. Werent you a moonclan?" she looked awfully confused that this ex-moonclan apprentice met a sunclan appeentice any time other then a gathering.

"I may have crossed the border while collecting moss nd it was

more of, they found me first. They came out from a tree for starclans sake!" Bumblepaw continued. "Yes, they are apprenticed by Hiddenstar. Hiddenstar teaches.. Differently or so i have heard." Snowydawn cringed. "Why did you leave them alone at sunclan?" Bumblepaw asked looking up at her. "Crescentpaw said that they were old enough to take care and hunt for themselves, im sure you know how it feels to be a little bit rebellious." foxpaw had finished his mouse, Bumblepaws rabbit was untouched as he was invested in her story.

Bumblepaw nodded, he didnt entirely, his father hadnt seen him in many, many moons. But he did rebel against his old mentor, Mistyshores. "Yeah i guess i do. I wasnt that nice to my old mentor in moonclan." He said, guilty of the way he use to speak to her. "Who mentors you now?" She asked kindly, a part of him knew where this conversation was going. "no one, Sootstar has taught me and Foxpaw a few battle moves but not much." he replied, looking back down to his paws. "Me and Nightpelt can train you until you become warriors, now that there are more cats here."

"You'd do that for us?" Bumblepaw questioned, tilting his head slightly. "mhm, maybe Roseseeker would be interested too." She purred. "when will you start training us? Will you have to ak Sootstar?" Foxpaw jumped up. "Well, i will talk to nightpelt about mentoring and if she wont ill ask roseseeker." Snowydawn stood up, she stretched her legs and padded away. "Lets go tell Dawnpaw!" foxpaw turned to the medicine den and padded towards it, Bumblepaw following from behind.

"Dawnpaw!" Bumblepaw shouted, running into the Medicine den. Mousetail jumped at the sudden noise. Dawnpaw spun around. "Hey Bumblepaw, Foxpaw!" Dawnpaw ran to them. "We are getting new mentors!" Foxpaw chirped, jumping up and down. "You are? Whos going to train you now?" Mousetail turned her head, she was sorting herbs. "Snowydawn and Nightpelt!" Bumblepaw beamed. "Ah, how wonderful. Im sure those two will teach you two well." She smiled, going back to sorting herbs. "Yeah! We are going to be the best warriors in Astroidclan!" Foxpaw said. Mousetail snickered, "Im sure you will."

Chapter nineteen

[image]

As the sun began to set, warriors, the medicine cats and apprentices gathered around Haze log, waiting for Sootstar to speak. "Tonight i say this before starclan so our warrior ancestors can hear my words. As of now, two apprentices by the name of Foxpaw and Bumblepaw have not received mentors. So tonight, i have chosen two cats to mentor them." Sootstar spoke, looking down at the two apprentices. "Foxpaw, from now on you will be mentored by roseseeker." foxpaw turned around to see her smile at him. "Bumblepaw, From this day forwards you will be mentored by Snowydawn." Bumblepaw grinned ear to ear as he turned around to see her.

"Clan dismissed." Sootstar jumped off the tree stump and onto the ground of the clearing below. Bumblepaw ran over to his now mentor. The young tom pressed his muzzle to the others, smiling warmly. "When are we going to start training?" Bumblepaw beamed happily. "How about we start now, get it over with? Then you can go play with your friends, im sure they'll be finished by the time you are." Snowydawn spoke. Bumblepaw nodded, bouncing up and down. "Okay!" The two cats left camp, Bumblepaw skipping behind her.

"So, what have you already learned, Bumblepaw? Im sure you have learned Moonclans territory, so you must already know Astroidclans territory. I have heard about all your adventures, you must know your clans territory like the back of your paw!" Snowydawn chirped. "Mhm!" The two cats didnt spend long dicussing what they were learning, but something was off about what she was teaching him. Snowydawn was teaching Bumblepaw a fighting technique that could end as a death blow, in the context she was teaching him in, A belly rake.

"So because im so small, if someone were to try to jump on or behind me a could rake their belly with my claws?" Bumblepaw sat up slightly, his eyes widened. "I suppose so. who knows, you have

the passibility of growing in size." she said, gesturing for him to sit back down. "But if you are pinned, you use your back legs. Which cant kill the cat you're fighting, but its considered a fight stopper." Snowydawn said, motioning with her paws how to do it. "Thats pretty cool! Are we going to practice that today?" Bumblepaw stood up, ears perked up. "Mhm, just make sure you dont have your claws unsheathed, Bumblepaw."

Snowydawn stood up, getting into a crouching position. Without warning, the she-cat leaped into the air towards him. Bumblepaw lunged forwards, but ended up bumping her to the ground with his head. She coughed for a few second before getting back up. "Thats one way to do it, but lets try to leap paw first instead." Snowydawn got back down into a crouching position, Bumblepaw followed her actions. She leaped up into the air, Bumblepaw jumped up into the air, raking her stomach with his tiny paws. She tumbled to the ground, onto the grass. "Good job, Bumblepaw!"

"Would you like to go catch some prey? Im sure it will be nice for me to see how you do it." She asked, getting up and stretching her joints. "mhm!" Bumblepaw nodded quickly, following her into the tall grass. "So, are there any other prey then field mice and field hares?" Snowydawn asked, padding deepee into the fields. "I guess, theres song thrushes. Sootstar said they live here because its always damp out." Bumblepaw said, looking forwards. The scent of a rabbit caught the she-cats attention. "I smell a rabbit near by, show me how you hunt." She whispered to the young cat, crouching down.

Bumblepaw dropped down into a hunting crouch, smelling the air. She was right, there was a very close scent of a field rabbit. He crept forwards, looking forwards he saw a brown rabbit. He sprang forwards, landing ontop of the hare, killing it with a swift bite to the neck. He stood back up and looked back to his mentor, she held his gaze. "Good job!" She padded back from their original direction, Bumblepaw followed her quickly, scared to fall behind.

The night stars lit the sky, brightly shining in the waves of the great lake. The tides crashing against the sandy shores, he wondered what the rest of sunclan was doing. His thoughts paused for just a few moments, *i wonder what the black and white apprentice he had met two moons Ago was doing.* He wanted to think about that cat he

met more, even just a day to talk to them without a battle between the clans. Maybe because Hiddenstar and Dawnpaw had made that agreement for peace, they could talk again. He stared in awe at the beautiful waters of the lake. "Ill be at camp in a few minutes!" Bumblepaw yowled.

He padded down to the slope that led to the river, his paws making small prints in the sand. He slowly dipped his paws in the water, it was cold, but the Leaf-fall weather hadnt come yet. The wind calmly swayed his fur, he let his emotions drift away as the moonlight shined upon his blue eyes. The young caramel furred tom looked back down into the water, another cat looked back at him. The dull blue eyes and a pale stat sat on his forehead, the fury of a snake shined in the toms eyes. In the blink of an eye, only Bumblepaws reflection looked back at him through the water.

He slowly stepped out of the water, climbing back up the slope. With one look back, he was gone into the shadowy fields.

Chapter twenty

[image]

"Crescentpaw." a deep, monotone voice called to them outside the apprentice den. Crescentpaw opened their eyes, looking up at his somewhat mentor. After Crescentpaw stopped doing well in training, Hiddenstar decided to give them a second mentor. "Goodmorning, Bruteheart." Crescentpaw smiled, today he had his favorite mentor! "Morning, Crescentpaw." Bruteheart nodded, his face blank. "What are we doing today? Are we going to practice more fighting techniques?" The apprentice asked, standing up and leaving the den with him. "No, we're going to learn a more important battle move." Bruteheart urged to smaller to follow him.

The two leaped down the sharp rock ledges, Bruteheart reaching the bottom quicker. Crescentpaw jumped from a higher rock, landing right on their feet. "Thats one of the only things you're good at." Burteheart joked, nudging the apprentice. "What? Do you mean being somewhat graceful." Crescentpaw looked back at him, grinning. "Possibly, but thats not what a sunclan cats like." Bruteheart said, walking forwards. Crescentpaw followed behind him. Bruteheart stopped at a small clearling in the woods. "Attack me." the tom spoke, backing up to give the apprentice more room. Crescentpaw knew he would do this, so they thought of a plan to attack.

They ran towards him, which caught the rouge off guard as they had never done something other then lunging at him in battle. Bruteheart jumped over him, landing behind the apprentice. Bruteheart leaped ontop of them, pushing them onto the ground. the apprenitce beat their hind legs against his stomach, throwing him off of them. Bruteheart jumped back up quickly and dodged one of Crescentpaws quick attacks. He turned around and lashed his paws at them, but they dodged most of his swipes with ease. As crescentpaw wiped his claws towards him, Bruteheart grabbed them by their upper arm and threw them.

Cescentpaw slowly got up, their legs weak. "Good job, you did much better then last time." Bruteheart padded towards him. "You're getting much faster, and bigger. You have grown quite a lot since i have last trained you." he said, nudging the apprentice. "Thanks." Crescentpaw muttered. "But you have to be even quicker, you lacked speed on your first attack." He sat down, Crescentpaw looking up at him. "Okay, good to know. Are we going to practice again?" Crescentpaw asked, still standing in the same place they had been since the battle ended. "Yes, and remember-" Bruteheart was cut off. "Be quick." Crescentpaw said.

Crescentpaw dropped into a crouch, leaping up and behind him, missing the tom on purpose. Bruteheart turned to look at him but the apprentice ran in circles around the tom, Bruteheart missed every attack he threw at him. The two finally came face to face, Crescentpaw raising their paw, claws unsheathed. Their paw had striked the tom on his nose, nothing that would leave a scar. Bruteheart looked up at the apprentice who stood proudly over him, Bruteheart stood up. "Good job, Crescentpaw." Bruteheart began to smile, tusks protruding out of his mouth. "Can we go hunting now?" the young jack asked, looking up at his mentor. Bruteheart nodded. "You deserve it." Bruteheart padded away with Crescentpaw, disappearing into the trees.

Hiddenstar stood at the entrance of camp, sitting just behind the waterfall that covered the entrance. He looked to the tom that stood before him, his friend, Palestep. Hiddenstar listened to the tom rant about the newly founded clan, Astroidclan. Hiddenstar could tell the tom wasnt happy about him letting them go with a simple deal. "Listen, Sootstar has made his clan with brave cats, even if two cats of ours have left, they need them now." Hiddenstar spoke.

Palestep snarled, baring his teeth and leaving into the dark camp. Hiddenstar sighed, but he stayed where he sat. Looking on into the distance, even if it was covered by rushing water. The silence was cut off by an apprentice and a rogue, Bruteheart and Crescentpaw. "Oh, hello Bruteheart, welcome bsck Crescentpaw." Hiddenstar looked to the two, smiling. "Good morning, hiddenstar." Crescentpaw dipped their head, still looking up at him. Bruteheart held a vole in his jaws, Crescentpaw held a beaver. "Great catches,

make sure to enjoy." Hiddenstar said, watching the two walk into the camp.

Hiddenstar padded into camp, the sound of apprentices playing, elders telling stories and warriors sharing tongues. A slight breeze ran through the toms fur, if he was being honest he was happy about the warmth of green-leaf, but he had never said anything about his emotions to his clan, he tried to keep the reputation of the greatest leader and fighter in the territory, but he knew it was actually Bruteheart, Bruteheart had taken one of his lives in a battle of a great battle before the clans had moved. The clan learned how to except the rogue as part of the clan, knowing he was very strong. But Bruteheart never fought in battle with them, he fought for no-one.

As hiddenstar walked forwards, crescentpaw sped out of camp alone. Apprentice are *always up to something.* The leader thought, but didnt pay much attention to them

Chapter twenty one

[image]

Crescentpaw ran out of camp, they didnt know what they would really do but they finally managed to slip out. They slowly climbed onto the rocks and then onto the patches of grass. They looked around, no one was there. Crescentpaw sprinted away into the woods, breeze glazing their fur. Crescentpaw hadnt been out alone in so long, the rush of all types of scents brushed their nose. The jack slid down the slope, the wet sand sticking between their paw pads. They quickly shook off the remaining sand before running into the rushing water.

The small waves pushed against the apprentices chest, almost pushing them to the ground. Crescentpaw went further into the water but their breath hitched as they looked forwards, a brown cat in the far distance, No other warrior seemed to be with him. It looked like the apprentice was learning how to swim. he paddled through the water. *It doesnt seem that deep over there.* Crescentpaw thought, still staring at him. That was an Astroidclan cat, an apprentice. There wasnt any other brown apprentices other then the apprentice they had met moons ago, Bumblepaw.

Crescentpaw slowly backed out of the water, gaze still placed on the other apprentice from the defferent clan. It didnt exactly take long for the black and white jack to wander into the fields, not exactly sure where they were going, but they knew they were going looking for Bumblepaw. They took a look to see if he was still there, he was paddling further into the water, a brave move for a cat originating from Moonclan, those Hallow-headed rat-brains cant swim to save their lives. They stalked through the long grass, getting closer to the point the apprentice swam at, they didnt seem that bad at swimming, better then most cats.

As the small tom began to drift further from the shore, waves crashed over his head. Crescentpaw quickly leaped from the grass and onto the slope near the water. Bumblepaw was swept under the

current, head bobbing up to the surface for only moments. Crescentpaw looked on for a few seconds, the apprentice didnt come back up. They raced into the water, the tide was higher then it had been hours ago. The apprentice dived into the water, Bumblepaw slowly sank under them. Crescentpaw dived deeper into the water, barely garbbing him by his long mane-like neck fur.

Crescentpaw swam upwards, water kept crashing overhead. As the jack reached the surface, they felt the legs of the smaller apprentice scrambling, as if he was trying to help swim, but it didnt really help. through a muffled tone, the jack spoke. "You can stop!" bumblepaw froze, letting Crescentpaw swim back to the shore, but not without struggle. Crescentpaw dropped Bumblepaw onto the sandy ground, shaking their pelt off, even if they didnt actually have that much fur to dry off.

Bumblepaw laid in the sand for a few moments, coughing and struggling .Crescentpaw didnt dare to lay an eye on him, right now they were on Astroidclans territory and they would never hear the end of it if Hiddenstar knew they were talking to an apprentice from a different clan. Bumblepaw shot back up, finally catching his breath. Bumblepaw stared up at the taller, and overall bigger apprentice. Crescentpaw held his gaze for a moment, but looked back down at their paws. "Thank you?" Bumblepaw sounded as if he was questioning was Crescentpaw wasnt interacting with him. "You're welcome." Crescentpaw murmured, keeping their head down. "Arent you Crescentpaw? The apprentice i met moons ago?" He asked, fully turning to look at them.

Crescentpaw squinted. "Yeah" they said, sitting down onto the sand. "Well, how have you been? We havent spoken it what has felt like forever!" Bumblepaw smiled, crescentpaw just stared back at him. "Well, i guess i have been okay, a lot of training. Not very fun things." Crescentpaw spoke quietly, tone soft. "I mean, at least you are training! Me and my new mentor have been hunting a tone, we dont have many cats in our clan to feed but we wanna have enough pray." Bumblepaw chimed, staring at the jack. Crescentpaw kept their gaze on him, admiring his soft, puffy fur.

"I have gotten a new mentor too, hes a loner though. Friend of Hiddenstar, Bruteheart, supposedly he left Moonclan before

Crowstar became leader, the old leader sounded like she wasnt that good. So bruteheart was fed up and left, Swearing he would fight for no cat." Crescentpaw said, tail flicking behind them. Bumblepaw looked in amazement, like a kit seeing a mouse for the first time. "You get trained by a Loner!? Does hiddenstar not train you anymore. Bumblepaw shuffled closer, looking at him with a questionable look. "yeah, they both train me. I just needed extra help." Crescentpaw looked down at the smaller tom.

Their muscles relaxed, but their face felt hot, but nothing that George couldnt fix up. "Listen i gotta go, Hiddenstar wont like me being out so long, he take my tail if he finds me here with you!" Crescentpaw said, more dramatically then it should have been. "Oh, okay! Can we meet another time? Like tomorrow night?" Bumblepaw asked, tilting his head. Crescentpaw thought for a moment. "Yeah, sure." Crescentpaw nodded, getting up. Bumblepaw slowly padded towards them, licking their cheek as a thank you. "bye now!" Bumblepaw padded off, pelt still soaking.

Chapter twenty two

[image]

Sootstar looked up at the rising moon, a full moon gathering. The last time he had gone to one he was deputy of Moonclan, helping Dawnpaw join the clans in peace. He looked at his clan members under the tree stump, they all kept their gaze on Sootstar and Rustedclaws. "The moon is rising, it is time we go to community island." Sootstar said, leaping off the log and onto the grass. The cats of the clan backed up, making space for him and Rustedclaws. Sootstar waited for everyone to get sorted. "Come on now!" Sootstar padded forwards, Rustedclaws by his side.

Astroidclan walked across the two-legs bridge, entering the island. Moonclan was already there, they all knew sunclan would be late, they always were. Moonclans leader, crowstar,laid on one of the large stepping stones in the pond, the rocks that clan leaders always sat on. Sootstar padded up to him, noticing something new in the waters, it was a new stone. "Me and my warriors helped carry the stone here, we have a new leader now so its time we bring some changes." Crowstar spoke, sitting up. Sootstar looked suprised, sepping closer to the water. "You did this?" Sootstar leaped onto the large rock, sitting down. Crowstar nodded.

Rustedclaws and Mistyshores padded up, talking quietly. The two sat down, seperating. Hiddenstar walked into camp, his warriors falling behind. Hiddenstar padded up the small hill to the pond, he had a root pouch wrapped around his belly. "Hello, Sootstar. I see you have gained your leader stone? Well done." Hiddenstar bowed his head slightly. "And greetings, Crowstar. I assume you did this?" Hiddenstar nudged Crowstar jokingly and leaped onto his stone. "You would be correct, new clan equals changes, and we will work with it as well as we possibly can."

Crowstar looked up to the sky, the moon was high in the sky. "We are ready to start." Crowstar said, looked back down at the two other leaders. "Let the gathering begin!" Hiddenstar yowled, the cats

of the clans stopped talking and looked up. Crowstar started, "Throughout this moon, many things have happened. As all of you know, the territory has gaines another clan that has fought for their creation and surpassed our expectations. So cats of all clans, welcome astroidclan!" Crowstar yelled, voice raspy with age. The cats below yowled with acceptance, especially the Sunclan cats, they were making up for their troubles.

Sootstar smiled and looked to Hiddenstar. "Well, in Sunclan we have had many plentiful hunts, we have found that beavers are beginning to build dams around the lake. Even though hard to catch, we have fed many this green-leaf." Hiddenstar stated. "And this moon we have apprentices two cats, Fireflypaw and Lightpaw." The cats below cheered the apprentices names. Hiddenstar raised his paw, silencing the cats in the clearing. He looked to Sootstar, waiting for him to begin. "You may begin, Sootstar." Hiddenstar spoke, Crowstar was staring at him too. Sootstar swallowed, looking down at the cats.

"Well, in astroidclan we have gained a new medicine cat! Mousetail." Sootstar spoke nervously. Cats below looked at mousetail, cheering the she-cats name. Mistyshores sighed, gaze placed on her. Mousetail looked back into the deputys eyes, returning a small smile. "And a new deputy, Rustedclaws." Sootstar continued, looking to the tom at his right. A ginger toms snarling caught his attention, Monarchsong. Sootstar returned the glare of the jack below. "Green-leaf is treating us well, many rabbits and mice have been caught the past moons. Now, everyone is at peace and happy, we have established astroidclan as a real clan." Sootstar gritted his teeth, stating at Monarchsong.

Sootstar, the leaders and the deputies gathered their clans, one by one leaving. The elder apprentice Bumblepaw looked at sunclans gathered cats, a black and white apprentice looked back and smiled brightly, walking onto the bridge with their clan. Bumblepaw remembered the promise to meet them again the next night. He scurried forwards, realizing his clan was beginning to leave. The cats thundered across the bridge, paws shaking the wood slightly. Bumblepaw turned his ead to look at the water below them, but Dawnpaw was there beside him, smirking quite obviously at him.

"Do you have a crush on Crescentpaw?" Dawnpaw asked, louder then the other expected him to say it. Bumblepaw hushed him, looking around to see if anyone heard or noticed. "Be quiet you fool!" Bumblepaw whisper-yelled. "Maybe." He continued, Dawnpaws smile got wider when Bumblepaw spoke. "I knew it, you have been seeing them every night." Dawnpaw nudged a dazed, confused Bumblepaw. "How did you know??" Bumblepaw looked back at him, his face still with confusion. "A medicine cat always knows, its part of the deal." Dawnpaw said, realizing they were off the bridge now. He noticed Bumblepaw now looking at the departing Sunclan in the distance.

As the clan got closer to camp, Dawnpaw saw Bumblepaw becoming more and more restless, he was jittering and his eyes were darting around, perhaps to see if anyone heard them talking. As the two settled into Astroidclans camp, Dawnpaw padded towards Bumblepaw. "Can you come to the medicine den? I just want to talk to you." Dawnpaw asked, Bumblepaw looked up at him, standing up. Dawnpaw padded to the medicine den, Bumblepaw followed, legs shaky. Dawnpaw didnt fully know what to say, even if before he was laughing and joking about it with him.

"Are you. Ehem- actually like-" Dawnpaw began but stopped to find the words to say it. "Do you actually like Crescentpaw in a uhm- not friend way?" Dawnpaw asked, inching closer to the other apprentice. Bumblepaw shifted his paws, looking down. "I dont know." He murmered, not able to look into the others eyes. Dawnpaws face dropped, not sure how to tell him it was against Starclans law. "I know that you like them, even though it a bit.. Wrong I still support your decision to see them." Dawnpaw leaned against him, attempting to sooth him. "I think it will lead your path to glory."

Chapter twenty three

[image]

"What?" Bumblepaw looked to the medicine apprentice who had just spoken. "Yeah! Mousetail never told you?" Dawnpaw looked suprised, but also looked like he was about to cackle at the fact Bumblepaw was never told. "No? What was she supposed to tell me?" Bumblepaw asked. "When you were born she had a prophecy... I belive it was something like- Through the bloodhed of war, the sun the moon and the eclipse will come together as three cats and banish all evil lurking in the territories." Dawnpaw said before speaking again.

"You were born on the darkest and coldest night of the entire year, the night of the winter solstice. You are the moon. I was born on the summer solstice, the warmest day of the year, but i was in the comfort of my housefolks nest." Dawnpaw said, laying down into a loaf. "So who are you suggesting the eclipse is? " Bumblepaw asked, oblivious of the message. "Well, the very cat who sparked this talk. Crescentpaw, they were born on a solar eclipse, even though their name means moon, they were meant to be named Eclipsepaw." Dawnpaw continued. Bumblepaw looked down at his paws again. "So its a good thing i like Crescentpaw?" Dawnpaw looked a bit questioning, in his opinion, no. But he nodded.

Bumblepaws face lit up, smile now wide. "Really?" He asked, almost face to face with the other. Dawnpaw sighed. "Sure." He forced a smile, knowing it would help him reunite the clans for the prophecy but it hurt knowing Bumblepaw would stray fruther from their friendship. Bumblepaw got up, gaze placed on the other. He walked forwards, attempting to do the closest thing to a hug he could possibly do. "Thank you, I will strive to be the greatest prophecy cat!" Bumblepaw skipped out of the den, leaving Dawnpaw with his own thoughts.

The sun beamed onto the camp, but it was no longer as hot as Green-leaf, leaf-fall was around the corner now. Bumblepaw sat

down, trying to ignore the slight chill in the air. Instead of sitting around all day, bumblepaw got up and grabbed a root pouch, swinging it over his head. He was going to collect berries in prepare for Leaf-bare. Foxpaw skipped towards him "Can i help? I have nothing to do tonight!" He asked, looking up at the other apprentice. "Sure, grab a pouch because we're looking for berries."

Foxpaw and Bumblepaw padded out of camp, Bumblepaw couldnt help but notice that leaves were beginning to fall. "Leaf-fall is coming, thats my favourite season! Even though i have only been through it once when i was a kit." Bumblepaw said, looking at the other apprentice. Foxpaw was coming of age, he was almost at his full size, But bumblepaw was still pretty small. "I havent seen leaf-fall before, i was just born in leaf-bare Bumblepaw." Foxpaw trotted beside him. "Look, i see some blue-berries!" Foxpaw darted to a little bush filled with little blue berries. Bumblepaw padded to him, gathering the berries with him.

"Do you think leaf-bare will be hard?" Foxpaw looked at Bumblepaw, now putting the berries in his pouch. "Well, i dont think the lake will freeze, the tides in the center of it are too strong to have it freeze over. We can catch the fish in the river." Bumblepaw replied, putting the berries in his bag. "You're starting to sound like a real warrior! Arent you going to have your warrior ceremony soon?" Foxpaw and Bumblepaw trotted away from where they stood picking berries. "Yeah... Yeah! Yeah i am! By the end of this moon perhaps." He said.

For what felt like seconds, they were done, pouches filled with different berries of different colors, types and tastes. The soft patter of rain hit the long brown pelt of Bumblepaw, foxpaws short pelt remained dry. Dawnpaw greeted them at the entrance, fur sopping wet from the rain. "Hey big men!" Dawnpaw chirped, boucing. "Men?" Foxpaw tilted his head, confused about the new word. "Yeah! Men is what my old house-folks called two-leg toms." Dawnpaw replied, urging them to come into camp where is was less wet. "Oh, cool." Bumblepaw said bluntly, padding into camp.

Foxpaw and Bumblepaw dropped their berries into a small mossy spot in the fresh-kill-pile, dawnpaw watching them. Foxpaw purred a goodbye and padded into the covered moss bedded area and laid

down, speaking to a few warriors. Bumblepaw turned to look at Dawnpaw, the golden tom smiling, suddenly a dark brown tom appeared behind him, Sootstar. "Hey guys." the tom said, fur soaking wet. "Oh hi Sootstar!" Bumblepaw chirped. "Come with me, i have some exciting news for you!" Sootstar beckoned him forwards, into his den. Bumblepaw followed him as he padded into the small, but rather spacey den.

"So whats up?" Bumblepaw shook the water off his pelt, almost splashing Sootstar. "You're going to have your warrior ceremony soon, and before that i need you to know something." Sootstar sat down, shaking off his pelt until it was dry. Bumblepaw tilted his head, holding his gaze. "You, Bumblepaw. You will become the greater light of the moon that shall shine onto the territories, bringing a new era to the clans. You, Bumblepaw. You are the moon, and you are the destined leader of astroidclan. And you, you will become Bumblestar, the greatest leader in the valley." Sootstar loomed over the apprentice, who had a look of wonder.

"Excuse me?" Bumblepaw looked up questioningly. "Starclan has spoken about your path in this life, after me, you will be the next leader." Sootstar said again, in a more simpler way. "What about Rustedclaws? Is he going to be okay?" Bumblepaw asked, worried about the deputy. Silence filled the den. "Rustedclaws will refuse the role, he will never be a fit deputy for this clan, his loyalties do not belong here, he will go to moonclan to fufil his destiny." Sootstar said, trying to calm his worries. Bumblepaw was thoughtful, looking at his paws.

"So, after i become a warrior.. Ill become leader? Dont I need an apprentice?" Bumblepaw asked. "You will have one, the story of this clan is great, even in the darkest hour. You will train those untrained, and you will help them fight through a great battle none have seen before. And when the clan is left leaderless, you will be the light shining through the darkness and you will serve your clan with great power." Sootstar combed through the small brown toms long fur, claws glazing his head.

"Dawnpaw told me about a prophecy at dawn, about the sun, the moon and the eclipse. He said that he was the sun, i was the moon and.." he paused, trying to find a way to tell him that a cat from a

different clan would be apart of his story. "And the eclipse is Crescentpaw." Bumblepaa blurted, unsure if it was normal or not. "The apprentice from Sunclan, i knew they were destined to be with you, forever and always." Sootstar lowered his head onto his. "You knew? And you're fine with it?" Bumblepaw was confused, this was against Starclans law.

"Im am. When i was a young warrior, i met a cat named salmonwhispers. You should keep this a secret for now but.. Foxpaw is half clan, salmonwhispers was from Sunclan." Sootstar laughed, assuring him it was alright. "Starclan will never doom you to betrayal, they know what they are doing and giving you Crescentpaw will not destroy you. Crescentpaw will join you in your journey, aswell as sun and the stars." sootstar spoke, smiling. Bumblepaw wasnt sure how to react to the information he had been given today. "So im special? Will my warrior ceremony still be normal?" Bumblepaw asked, slightly hunched over in worry. "Yes. you will become a warrior as any other cat had."

Chapter twenty four

[image]

Crescentpaw stood infront of the bright-rock, tail swaying slowly behind them, their eyes glimmering in the moonlight. Many cats stood before them, warriors, apprentices kits and queens. No one stood beside them, they were the eldest of the apprentices and now they were becoming a warrior. A sting of pain hit them, their moms werent there in the crowd of cats, but they were taking care Bumblepaw now, they were the clans moms somewhere else now. Crescentpaws shadow was casted over the cats, the sun glazing their pelt. Hiddenstar stood at the top of the rock, preparing for the words he was about to speak.

Hiddenstar looked down at Crescentpaw, sitting down. "I stand before cats of sunclan, the sun is high in the sky and it gleams onto this apprentices pelt. Today, I Hiddenstar of Sunclan, give this cat their warrior name. I say this before sunclan so they hear my words and approve of this new warrior." Hiddenstar paused, closing his eyes. "Crescentpaw, from now on, you shall be known as Crescentmaw of Sunclan." Hiddenstar said, opening his eyes once more. The cats of Sunclan cheered their name with pride, even Bruteheart was there yowling along side Sunclans warriors.

"From now until dawn, you will have your warrior vigil. You shalnt speak a word until the sun rises again." Hiddenstar said, standing back up. "Clan dismissed." He leaped off the bright-rock and padded towards Crescentmaw. "Do a good job, we all know what you are made to do." He whispered in the newly found warriors ear, though they wanted to speak, they knew they couldnt for the sake of Starclans law. A part of them had no clue what to do now that they were a warrior.. And under vigil. They couldnt even talk to another warrior about warrior stuff.

They padded out of camp, looking at the flowing waterfall outside, it was hard to see through the rushing water, they could only make out the little trees from outside. They looked back to camp, the cold

stone below them stood still. The only thing they could do was go hunting at the moment, even if the patrols werent going to be sent out for quite a while. They padded down the steep slope, then leaping down onto the wet grass. There were many puddles and spots of mud from the heavy down pour from the day before.

Crescentmaw trotted through the fields, but a scent of a thrush caught their attention. They followed the scent slowly, belly pressing against the ground as they crouched down. The thrush was just about to take off into flight. It stood still, opening its wings. just the right time to pounce. Crescentmaw leaped into the air, catching the bird right from the air. They landed on their paws gracefully, holding the now dead bird in their jaws. Silence filled their senses, they hadnt seemed to realize they were right about to cross the scent border into Astroidclans territory.

The smell of four cats caught them by suprise, they stood still, trying to think of what to do if they were to find them. A small brown cat sprung from the tall grass, landing right onto of them, making them fall flat on the ground. Now pinned, they tried to escape without looking at his facw, but the tom ontop of them laughed, getting off. Now the three other cats padded infront of them, Sootstar, Rustedclaws and Foxpaw. Crescentmaw sprang up, trying to find a way out of the situation they were in. But unexpectedly, Sootstar bowed his head in greeting.

"Hello, Crescentpaw." Sootstar said, now noticing just how big Crescentmaw was. Crescentmaw debated correcting him and breaking the vigil, but tried to say silent. Rustedclaws and Foxpaw looked confused on why they werent driving them off, but they stood still. "What are you doing here? I see you have been hunting." Sootstar looked down at the thrush they had dropped. Crescentmaw stayed silent, picking up the thrush. Even if Crescentmaw seemed like a little bit of a menace, they kept to the rules. "You can speak." Sootstar inched closer, the rest of the patrol began to get down, like they were about to pounce.

Crescentmaws vision darted around, they began to shake their head violently. Sootstar looked confused, trying to figure out why they couldnt talk. "Are you sick?" He asked, inspecting them. Crescentmaw shook his head. "Are you under a warrior vigil? Are

you a warrior now?" Sootstar asked. Crescentpaw nodded, now standing taller then they did. "Ah wonderful, we are just about to give some of our apprentices their warrior ceremonys tomorrow." Sootstar smiled, signiling for Bumblepaw to get back.

"What are you doing Sootstar? They are a trespasser." Foxpaw asked looking up at his father. "For now it is none of your business." Sootstar whispered. Bumblepaw bounced with happiness. "We're both going to be warriors!" Bumblepaw squealed, holding Crescentmaws gaze. "When we're done our vigils we can tell eachother our new names!" He said, now standing infront of them. Crescentpaw nodded, about to give him an affectionate lick but realized the two other cats stood with them. "Well, for now until we know your name, we can call you Crescent. So, Crescent. We suppose you should get going now, but remember you arent going to be welcomed if im not on the patrol who finds you." Sootstar said, turned away and walking off.

Bumblepaw stayed however, leaning over to Crescentmaw. Silence. "You can tell me your name now, no ones here!" Bumblepaw asked, now face to face. Crescentmaw looked around, questioning to speak or not. "crescentmaw." They whispered into the ear of the other. Bumblepaw grinned, he seemed content. "Nice, Sootstar said my name is going to be real unique." Bumblepaw said, plopping down infront of them. "He said Bumble is a hard prefix to find a suffix that matches it though." He continued, still looking at them. Crescentpaw smiled, enjoying listening to him talk. "Im gonna go now, they'll realize im gone soon. Bye!" Bumblepaw skipped off without looking back.

Chapter twenty five

[image]

The sun was setting, leaving a orange tint in the bright sky. Stars beginning to appear in the sky. Bumblepaw looked out into the sky, waiting for the ceremony. Suddenly, the voice of Sootstar summoning the clan snapped him out of his daze. Bumblepaw got up, padding towards the haze log. As cats swarmed the tree stump, Sootstar began to speak, "Today, we gain a new warrior, and a new medicine cat." He bagan, looking down at Bumblepaw and Dawnpaw. "Bumblepaw, step forwards." he spoke, sitting down. Bumblepaw padded forwards, looking up at Sootstar.

"From this day on, you will serve this clan and uphold the warrior code. And you will do this by the name of.." Sootstar took a breath in, closing his eyes. "Bumbleshine of Astroidclan." Sootstar said, opening his eyes once more. Bumbleshine was about to burst of excitement before Dawnpaws name was called. "From this day on, as you serve our clan through healing, you will be known as Dawnsky, medicine cat of Astroidclan." Sootstar said, turning hs gaze to the golden tom. "Now, for the rest of the day, you are to be as silent as a mouse, for you will be under your silent vigils."

When the meeting was over, Bumbleshine looked to Dawnsky, who looked like he was just about to burst of happiness. Even though the two couldnt speak to each other yet, they both understood how happy they were. Even though the meeting was over and the cats had returned to their dens after celebrating through yowling their names, the two still stood in the middle of camp, staring at each other in the eyes. Bumbleshine ran to him, thundering over him. Though Bumbleshine was small, he was quite strong. Dawnsky went rolling as the two restled on the ground, a feeling of being watched hit Bumbleshine.

Mousetail stood watching the two, smiling at her apprentice. She turned to look at Bumbleshine, a still smile sat on her face, but it was smaller then it had been before. Bumbleshine knew what was

wrong, the prophecy. Bumbleshine looked back, smiling at her. Dawnsky looked up at him, sneaking out from under him. Dawnsky striked him with his paw on the cheek playfully, Bumbleshine head-butted him, making him tumble backwards onto his belly. Bumbleshine looked back at camp, running into the outer territory with Dawnsky. Dawnsky shot up and bolted away further into the field.

Bumbeshine darted after Dawnsky, the long strands grass blocking his vision. He leaped upwards, trying to see over the grass, Dawnsky wasnt that ahead of him. Bumbleshine pushed harder, now being able to see his tail. He jumped onto the golden toms back, making him unsteady. The two fell to the ground, closer to a puddle then they had hoped. Water splashed up onto the fur, leaving them wet on the ground. They stood up, shaking off their pelts. Dawnsky looked up, the half moon meeting would be in a few days. Dawnsky smiled at Bumblepaw and scrambled back to camp, still wet.

Bumbleshine loomed to the same spot in the sky, the moon shined brightly, breeze glazing his pelt. Something moved in the grass. Bumbleshine looked back down. The familier eyes of Crescentmaw reflected his own. They toppled over him, pushing him onto the ground again. "Bumblepaw!" Crescentmaw shouted, backing off of him. Bumblepaw greeted them, licking their forehead. "You're a warrior now, Sootstar told me yesterday." Crescentmaw said, watching Bumbleshine nod. "Anyway you could show me your suffix?" They asked. Bumbleshine thought for a few seconds. He pointed to the moon with his tail, and then to the lighter spots in the grass.

"Uhm- light?" they asked, Bumbleshine shook his head. "Shine?" They tried again, receiving a nod. "Bumbleshine! Sweet." They laughed, looking down at the brown tabby. "So now our names are Crescentmaw and Bumbleshine, we're so cool." Crescentmaw said sarcastically, one of the things they were great at despite not knowing when someone else was being sarcastic. Bumbleshine nodded. A small orange leaf fell onto his nose, catching him by suprise. Crescentmaw picked up the leaf as it fell, putting it behind their ear.

"You should find something to decorate your fur with, its so fun to do." Crescentmaw said, looking for something to use as an example. "Oh, there! Purple tulips. You could wear some behind your ears." Crescentmaw suggested, plucking two out of the ground. Bumbleshine nodded, letting Crescentmaw settle them behind his ears. "There, y'know, they kinda look like horns, but thats cool so i think you should keep putting things behind your ears or on your pelt for decoration, its pretty fun and it makes you look pretty cool." Crescentmaw smiled, sitting back down.

"I cant wait to hear your voice again, it feels like its been ages." They said, frowning. Bumbleshine nodded, looking at his paws. "Well, we'll see eachother tomorrow and we cant talk all we want. And if its still warm, we can sun ourselves near the rocks on the bay, almost everyone in Sunclan goes there." Crescentmaw said, noticing Bumbleshines confusion. "dont worry, at this point in the year, no one goes there as often because everyones busy." They spoke, smiling. Bumbleshine brushed off his worries, smiling at his friend. "Well, i would love to spend more time with you Bumbleshine, but i need to get back to camp soon." Crescentmaw got up, but padded towards Bumbleshine, giving him a lick on the cheek. "Bye!" They dashed into the grass. Bumbleshine stood still for a few seconds before backing up and walking away, hopefully back to camp, he was blinded by confusion and worry.

When he got back to camp, it was peaceful. Sootstar was talking to Foxpaw, most likely about the end of his training nearing any moon now. Dawnsky was talking to Nightpelt, she had gotten a splinter in her paw pad. Rustedclaws was laying down talking to mousetail, and grooming his pelt. Bumbleshine padded into camp, grabbing a field mouse and sitting down to eat it. Minutes passed, Bumbleshine finished his mouse.

"Bumbleshine!" A voice called out to him, his head shot up. It was mousetail, she was trotting up to him. "I want to talk to you in my den for a minute." She said, flicking her tail and padding towards her den. Bumbleshine got up, following in her paw-steps. Bumbleshine knew what this was going to be about, the prophecy about him, Dawnsky and Crescentmaw. He continued to follow her, entering the medicine den. It was a sheltered area with dirt walls

that were suprisingly strong enough to not collapse on itself.

"So, about that prophecy." She began, not to Bumbleshines suprise. *I knew this was what this was about.* He thought silently, still looking up at her. "I want to tell you about what might happen to you during your journey." She said, sitting down in a bed of moss. "Something truely horrible will happen, i see fire in your path, but not every single ember will destroy you. Some.. Some will light your way to victory. But those that will destroy you, they will take parts of you. But the blazing flames that guide you, they will rebuild you." She said, patting the bed beside her. Bumbleshine sat down, looking at her.

"You will meet many cats who will help you, two you already know by now. The sun and the eclipse. They be a part of your adventure, they always have and always will. One will bring kin to your world, even if its not your own. Thats when the falling stars will be born, a bright light that will guide his own path, and those who care. You are destined for greatness, Bumbleshine." Mousetail said, taking a breath in. "as the sun sets, *rises the moon."*

Epilogue

[image]

"Are you sure, Beeflight? This cannot be the right one." A black and white tom asked, standing along side a larger ginger tom.

"I am sure, he is a brave one. But i worry, he is rather tiny. Maybe he cannot handle what his path will lead to." The brown tom replied simply, yellow eyes reflecting the stars around them.

"Im sure he will be fine, The one we picked can surely protect him." The ginger tom said.

"Are you sure, hogstar? We know what will happen to them, they wont remember how to fight." Beeflight said, looking down into the clear water that reflected the brown cat.

"They will learn to fight once more, Im sure he will teach them again." Hogstar said, looking down at the black and white tom below.

"Yes, yes. They will be just fine. I didnt know how to fight and i didnt die from anything related to fighting. Im sure they will be okay." He said, licking his paw.

"Maskedface, you died from rat bites after trying to fight in the middle of Moonclans old territory." This seemed to catch the black and white tom off guard, he gave Beeflight a hard glare.

"Can you all calm down, im sure if both of them were to get hurt, my chosen cat could heal them." A grey and black tom said, rolling his eyes. The three cats shot him a glare.

"Okay, maybe hes not that good with herbs like Mousetail is but im sure they'll be fine. The three will be okay, we all have seen the future and they're all okay." He said, laying down infront of the water.

"Physically, they all are fine. But they have all gotten hurt in a way that could last forever. We know what happens to Bumbeshine, he ends up so hurt in the end of it all. Im sure theres something we could do to help them all." Beeflight said, keeping his head low.

Silence filled the area, stars reflecting in the calm current of the stream.

"In the end, we have to do something that would end everyones sarrows. Therefore they all could rest up here in the stars." Maskedface said, stretching.

"Probably. Something fast an painless, something where they could enjoy their last moments in forgiveness." Hogstar suggested.

"Yes, i suppose that would be good." The grey and black tom said, yawning.

"So what about happens after whats happening right now, Racoonfoot? Like with the other cats." Beeflight asked, thinking aloud.

"Let it happen, we just have to give an omen or another prophecy to one of the medicine cats." Hogstar said, pointing at the golden tom in the stream.

"That would be good, but is he that experienced to be able to tell what a prophecy means? That can be quite hard." Racoonfoot said, tail swaying behind him.

"They'll be fine, we cant interfere with what they do after our messages." Maskedface said, laying down.

"Alright, we should get going now." Hogstar stood up, Maskedface following after him.

"Alright, bye." Racoonfoot disappeared, fading into the stars.

Beeflight sat still, looming over the stream, looking at starclans chosen.

"Goodluck, Bumbleshine."